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Iraq says pullback is over; U.S. continues buildup

American officials see partial movement, may demand 'exclusion zone' near Kuwait

Combined agency dispatches

SOME OF THE Iraqi units positioned near the Kuwaiti border may be "moving from their combat positions," the Pentagon's top general said Tuesday, but the rapid buildup of American military forces in the region will continue.

General John Shalikashvili told reporters that "considerable (Iraqi) units" still remain in the area of the Kuwaiti border.

He placed the number of American forces in the region at 19,000, with an additional 44,500 in "various stages of deployment and planned for deployment." He said another 156,000 troops have been placed on alert.

Gen. Shalikashvili, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke shortly after President Clinton vowed to "say the course" in forcing an Iraqi pullback from positions. Baghdad's weekend military manoeuvres were eerily reminiscent of the days shortly before Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, triggering the Gulf war.

Gen. Shalikashvili said the reasons for the Iraqi movements in the last several hours were not clear. But, he said of the deployment towards the Kuwaiti border, "this wasn't just some innocent exercise that they were on and we misread it. Far, far from it."

President Clinton agreed on Tuesday it was too soon to judge Iraq's intentions.

"It's a little early yet to

reach a final conclusion," he said while on a campaign swing in New Jersey, adding however: "I am hopeful."

Iraq announced Monday it was pulling back its troops from the Kuwaiti border when they began massing last week.

But Washington has been sceptical about reports of the withdrawal — which Baghdad said earlier Tuesday had been completed.

Defence Secretary William Perry also said Tuesday he would not rule out a preemptive strike against Iraq, a position which Gen. Shalikashvili seconded, noting that it was impossible to tell what Baghdad would do next.

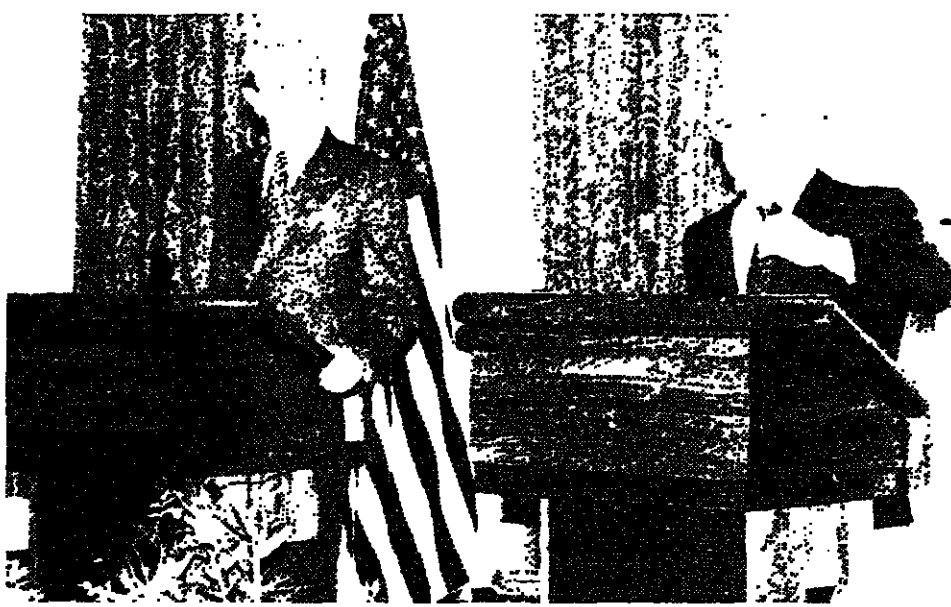
"Not all movements south have stopped yet, but that perhaps is not unusual. When you terminate a movement, some units you don't stop in midstream," Gen. Shalikashvili said.

"On the other hand, you must understand there are significant forces still in place."

Correspondents travelling north from Basra on Tuesday passed a convoy of hundreds of Iraqi military vehicles headed north from the southern Iraqi town.

After Iraq's announcement Monday, Mr. Clinton went on national television to say there was no sign of the Iraqi troops being withdrawn and that he had ordered another 350 warplanes to the region.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "has shown the world ... he cannot be trusted," Mr. Clinton said.



His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday answers a question at a joint press conference held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (Photo by Yousef Al-Allan)

Gen. Shalikashvili declined to say whether U.S. intelligence had known of the deployment of Iraqi troops — which reached some 80,000 troops by Monday — before an Iraqi opposition group reported the movements on Friday.

U.S. officials first heard about the deployment "around that time," was all he would say.

Meanwhile, an advance party of 800 U.S. troops tested military equipment in Kuwait Tuesday, as more than 32,000 headed for the emirate from the United States to counter any possible Iraqi attack.

U.S.-led forces ousted Ira-

qi forces from Kuwait in February 1991, ending the seven-month occupation.

Mr. Clinton told reporters as he left for a campaign trip in Michigan on Tuesday that he welcomed the support he had received from allies for the U.S. deployment, adding he was "quite encouraged about the direction of the event."

Mr. Clinton had cancelled a similar trip Monday following Iraq's announcement that it was pulling back its troops.

According to reports from Washington, the U.S., depending on its assessment of the Iraqi withdrawal, might demand that the Iraqi government undertake to

observe an "exclusion zone" near the border with Iraq. The reports said the "exclusion zone" would mean that Iraq cannot deploy heavy armour in the area.

Details of the reportedly planned American demand were not available, but it appeared that Washington was seeking to ensure that no Iraqi long-range artillery is deployed within striking distance of Kuwait.

Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah said the world should forbid Baghdad from moving ground troops into southern Iraq until it recog-

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King: Jordan will react seriously to any threats to stability in Middle East

HM blames Iraq for rising tension, expresses sympathy for Iraqi people

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that Jordan held Iraq responsible for the rising tension in the Gulf, stressing that the Kingdom will react seriously and stand in the face of any threat to regional stability.

"I express very deep sadness, disappointment and anger over these recent movements of troops in southern Iraq" not because it is not the right of any country to move its troops within its territory but because the perception could be that Iraq is repeating "something that happened four years ago, that brought this entire region a lot of misery and a lot of suffering," King Hussein said in a joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The King said Jordan would be against Iraq if its actions lead to the possibility

of Arabs fighting Arabs again, adding that "we are against any adventure in this area."

But King Hussein stressed that the Kingdom differentiates between the government of Iraq and the Iraqi people, voicing his sympathy and concern for the Iraqi people and their future.

"I feel as strongly as any of my people feel about Iraq and the suffering of the people of Iraq," the King said, adding that "I hope somehow a solution will be found and the people of Iraq would be free of fear, of intimidation, of hunger and of need."

The King said he was very hurt over the suffering of the Iraqi people, noting that he had his family in Iraq which was part of a union with the Kingdom up until 1958 when he lost this family. Despite that, he said, he recognised Iraq and the right of the Iraqi people to determine their own future.

"What our hope has always

been for Iraq is a democratic Iraq where pluralism is a way of life, where democracy is a way of life, where respect for human rights is paramount. I hope this will happen somehow," the King told the press conference.

King Hussein said it was regrettable that a government would place itself in a position where others will have to consider action to prevent the emergency of a dangerous situation that can threaten others.

The King said the "dilemma has to be worked out and hopefully the nightmare will end in a way" that will give Iraqis their freedom and Iraq the place it deserves in the region and in the world.

"Once again, the international community is faced with the threats of aggression here in the Middle East. Once again the international community will stand together in resisting these

(Continued on page 7)

Queen Beatrix to visit Jordan

THE HAGUE (AP) — Queen Beatrix is to make the first visit by a Dutch monarch to Jordan, the government information service announced Monday. The queen and her husband Prince Claus, have been invited for the Dec. 6 to 8 visit by King Hussein. Details of the royal couple's itinerary were not released. The Dutch monarch is scheduled to visit Israel in March next year at the invitation of Israel's President Ezer Weizman.

Jerusalem mufti passes away

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday delegated Acting Chief Islamic Justice in Jerusalem Sheikh Abdul Qadar Abadeen to attend the funeral of the mufti of Jerusalem, Sheikh Sulaiman Al Ja'bari, who passed away in Jerusalem Tuesday, and to convey the King's condolences to Al Ja'bari family over his death. Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi mourned the death of Sheikh Sulaiman and recalled his efforts in promoting Arab unity and preventing inter-Arab and Islamic divisions.

30 injured in AUB protest

BEIRUT (AFP) — Thirty-one students and police officers were injured in clashes during a protest over an increase in tuition fees at the American University of Beirut (AUB), hospital officials said Tuesday. Trouble flared Monday when around 100 police intervened to clear students occupying the university's administration offices in protest at a 10 per cent rise in fees. Demonstrators hurled stones and empty bottles at police who used rifles butts and clubs to drive them from the offices. Police-men equipped with clubs and shields on Tuesday deployed at the university gates, as several hundred students gathered on campus to shout slogans against the university administration, an AFP correspondent said.

Gaps remain between Syria, Israel, Christopher says

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher conceded Tuesday there were still gaps between Syria and Israel after almost four hours of talks here with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

"Both parties are very serious but gaps do remain," Mr. Christopher said before leaving for Amman.

The parties are committed to try and achieve a comprehensive peace. There is hope they can do so," Mr. Christopher said.

"I am more convinced than ever of the seriousness" of Syria and Israel, he said. He describes his talks with Mr. Assad as "good and constructive" and said he had briefed him on the discussions he had on Monday in Israel with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. They also discussed the situation in the Gulf.

The U.S. envoy is to visit Kuwait Wednesday to discuss with Arab Gulf leaders the tension on the Kuwait-Iraqi border. He will also meet U.S. troops in the emirate.

U.S. officials said Mr. Christopher would return Thursday to Damascus after a visit to Israel.

"We don't have an agreement yet," said one official on condition of anonymity, and repeated U.S. views that high-level Israeli-Syrian talks were needed for an agreement to be concluded.

"In some areas we begin to see a narrowing of the gaps but in other areas the gaps are still the same," the official said without elaborating. He predicted the Syrian-Israeli peace process would take time although progress had been made on "the level of details and in the level of interest from each side to understand the other side."

The Syrian presidential spokesman said Mr. Assad and Mr. Christopher had "detailed discussions" on how to secure peace.

Their talks focused on "issues linked to the peace process and the views of the parties on the best means to narrow the gaps," he said.

Peace talks between Syria and Israel have deadlocked over an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Mr. Rabin said on Monday he wanted "peace and security in dignity for Israel and Syria" in what some analysts saw as a deliberate use of the word "dignity" — often uttered by Syrian leaders in their demands for a total Golan pullback.

Publicly, however, Israel has refused to say how far it would withdraw on the Golan.

(Continued on page 7)

Tarawneh reports progress in Eilat meetings

AMMAN (I.T.) — Jordan and Israel are close to an accord on the demarcation of their border in the Wadi Araba region, chief Jordanian negotiator Faysel Tarawneh said Tuesday.

"We are about to delineate Wadi Araba," said Dr. Tarawneh, quoted by the Jordan News agency, Petra.

Dr. Tarawneh was speaking during bilateral talks at the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat, where Israeli and Jordanian negotiators are working to iron out differences ahead of signing a peace agreement.

Further work is needed to demarcate the border near the Dead Sea and Jordan River, including "field visits, joint maps and other technical issues," Dr. Tarawneh said.

Dr. Tarawneh said both sides were working to bridge the gaps inside the negotiation rooms. However, he said, more time is needed to bridge these gaps.

Dr. Tarawneh said there was a convergence of views on many points, adding that he does not expect any major problems in the talks.

"Water, security, borders and territories are issues of sovereignty for Jordan," he said. "Once these issues are solved, then the signing of a peace accord will be left for the governments to work out."

Dr. Tarawneh said the two sides agreed on a set of principles governing the work of negotiators in the three main committees. However, he added, no final agreement had been reached on these issues.

On the water and territory issues, Dr. Tarawneh said there was no difference over Jordan's rights in waters of the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers in addition to ground water.

Jordan, PNA conclude talks with agreement on key issues

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian officials concluded three days of meetings on Tuesday after reaching broad agreements on several key issues, including trade, exemption of goods from customs duties, monetary and banking affairs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and civil aviation.

The agreements appeared to signal a major breakthrough for Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which have seen their lowest ebb in recent days over non-coordination in the peace process and conflicting perceptions of priorities.

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, head of the Jordanian delegation, and his Palestinian counterpart Yasser Abed Rabbo said that the agreements covered exchange of

goods, Jordan's role and help in supervising commercial banks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the continued status of the Jordanian dinar as the main legal tender in the territories, and the Kingdom's help in setting up a Palestinian airline and training Palestinian civil aviation staff, including pilots and flight crew.

Under the agreement, Jordan will help the Palestine self-rule authority supervise commercial banks in the occupied territories under the rules and regulations drawn up by the self-rule authority. That marked a change from an earlier agreement that the banks will operate under the rules and regulations of the Central Bank of Jordan.

It was also agreed that Palestinian planes will be registered in Jordan and the Queen Alia International

Airport (QATA) will serve as the base for the flights of the proposed Palestinian airline. All flights to the self-rule territories will be routed through QATA. Mr. Rawabdeh and Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

On Sunday and Monday, the two sides agreed to draw up a working paper outlining the Palestinian position on the issue of displaced persons ahead of a coordinated Jordanian-Palestinian position in meetings of a Palestinian-Israeli-Jordanian-Egyptian committee to discuss the subject.

On the issue of Jerusalem, they agreed that the Palestinian side would present a paper on Palestinian ideas about the status of the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem — a key difference that developed

(Continued on page 7)

Rabin suspends autonomy talks after soldier kidnapped

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Tuesday ordered the suspension of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) talks in Cairo on the extension of Palestinian autonomy after the kidnap of an Israeli soldier by militants, officials said.

Mr. Rabin instructed Israeli delegation leader General Danny Rothchild to leave Cairo immediately and return to occupied Jerusalem, they said.

Neither Israeli nor PLO officials were immediately available for comment on the report.

Israel also sealed off the autonomous Gaza Strip and Mr. Rabin called an emergency cabinet meeting after the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), said it had kidnapped an Israeli soldier.

In a video recording broadcast on Israel Television, a Hamas member, his face covered by a headscarf, display-

ed the soldier's M-16 automatic rifle and identity card. Earlier a Hamas representative in the Gaza Strip said the group's armed wing Ezzedin Al Qassam had kidnapped 19-year-old Nachshon Waksman, who went missing Sunday.

Mr. Rabin called an emergency cabinet session to decide a course of action Wednesday after meeting with Chief-of-Staff Ehud Barak and other top security officials.

Israel also decided to seal off the Gaza Strip until further notice, preventing Palestinian workers from entering the Jewish state, military sources said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat pledged to "do everything possible" to find the soldier, his special aide Ahmad Tibi said.

But Mr. Rabin warned that Arafat bore responsibility for the soldier's fate.

(Continued on page 7)

Israel asks PLO to explain Jerusalem gun

ISRAELI demanded Tuesday the PLO explain how an assailant who gunned down people sitting in cafes in Jerusalem this week got hold of a Palestinian police weapon.

"This is grave. We must examine if it was a weapon stolen from a policeman or sold by a policeman," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said. "We have delivered this message to the Palestinian police in Gaza. We gave them the number of this weapon and we are asking for the appropriate answer."

Mr. Rabin said the AK-47 assault rifle found on one of the bodies belonged to the Palestinian police. All weapons were registered by Israel when Palestinian police crossed into the Gaza Strip.

Ministers brief Cabinet on outcome of recent meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Tuesday listened to reports about the outcome of Jordanian-Palestinian talks, Jordanian-American-Israeli economic talks, Jordan's contacts with World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials, and Jordan's activities in the United Nations General Assembly session.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, who headed the Jordanian side to this week's Jordanian-Palestinian talks, said the two sides discussed four subjects, including Jordan's decision to cut ties with Awqaf in the occupied territories and identification documents and personal status-related issues in light of the decision by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to issue Palestinian passports and travel documents.

The talks also covered the

displaced persons, and bilateral economic cooperation.

On the severance of ties with West Bank Awqaf, Mr. Rawabdeh said in view of the impact of this decision on the people there and due to the fact that the Islamic Court is in Jerusalem, the two sides agreed that the Palestinian side prepare a working paper outlining its position towards this issue in order for the Jordanian government to study it and take the right decision.

On the identification documents, the Palestinian side was requested to prepare a working paper explaining in details the kind of assistance the PNA expects from Jordan.

Mr. Rawabdeh added that the PNA requested Jordan to authenticate such documents.

The PNC intends to issue passports and travel documents to Palestinians living in the occupied territories and

the issue will also be presented to the forth-coming meetings of the Arab interior ministers, to reach an Arab agreement on it.

On the issue of the displaced persons, the discussions dealt with the best methods of addressing this issue during meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli Egyptian committee, as outlined in the declaration of principles endorsed by the Palestinians and Israel in Washington.

The committee is entrusted with looking into means of implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 237 calling for the repatriation of the displaced persons.

The two sides agreed to work out a joint working paper outlining their perception of the best and most effective methods for ensuring their repatriation.

On economic cooperation, (Continued on page 7)

Princess Sarvath highlights progress achieved by YMWA's centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, the president of the Young Muslim Women Association (YMWA), on Tuesday opened at the Royal Cultural Centre an exhibition of ceramic and tricot works made by students at the association's special education centre.

Princess Sarvath, who was accompanied at the opening ceremony by Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma, voiced her satisfaction with the quality of items on display at the exhibition and lauded progress achieved by the centre in offering services to the mentally retarded through academic and vocational programmes.

"It's a very small beginning, and it's very gratifying to see how far the centre has progressed, how well the children have done, and how many young people we have managed to help take their rightful place in the society," Princess Sarvath said in a statement to Jordan Television.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath on Tuesday tours an exhibition of products of the Young Muslim Women Association (Petra photo)

Princess Sarvath said in a statement to Jordan Television, "Of course, the most important aim was targeted towards education, especially special education," she added.

There was a complete change in Jordan and the world at large in the outlook of people towards special education and people with special needs.

"When we started with our centre, we had 20 children, three teachers and rented accommodation, and a lot of people came to me at that time and said: 'Why you are getting so involved with children who are handicapped, there is a lot to be done in Jordan for other children who have perhaps not such difficult needs?' and I said 'yes, we have to work for every one. We can't just leave one group out, and I believe the whole perception has just changed completely,' she said.

Now, she added, there were several excellent centres and schools as well as several sheltered workshops in Jordan. "We are very proud to be amongst the pioneers of this idea in the country," she said.

Iran steps up pressure on Afghan refugees to leave

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has stepped up the pressure on thousands of Afghan refugees to leave, despite promises by officials here that the refugees would be spared a winter trek home.

An Afghan diplomat told AFP that police in the north-eastern province of Khorasan had intensified a crackdown on the refugees, "systematically confiscating their identity cards and providing them instead with a temporary permit valid for a few weeks."

Up to 700,000 Afghans live in the province bordering on Afghanistan.

After the permits expired the refugees would either have to leave voluntarily or face expulsion.

"Tens of thousands of refugees holding legal status are threatened by the new measures," the diplomat said.

The allegations were confirmed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tehran. UNHCR officials expressed "concern" about the measures, which went into effect July.

As a result of the pressure, more than 40,000 Afghan refugees have left Iran since last month. About 2,000 departures have been recorded daily — three times more than during the summer.

"Three-quarters of those repatriated were forced to leave against their will," said Seyyed Khan Padashah Rohani, who oversees refugee affairs at the Afghan embassy in Tehran.

According to the UNHCR, up to 40,000 refugees are stuck in camps in Herat, western Afghanistan, unable to return home because of security fears and the onset of winter.

Threatened by a new influx of refugees from Iran, the governor of Herat province, Ismael Khan, arrived here Sunday to ask the authorities to ease the pressure on the refugees.

"We know we will have a serious problem during the winter. There is a shortage of food, shelter, medicine and fuel for the refugees," Ismael Khan told reporters Monday.

The Afghan official, who controls all of western Afghanistan, said some 5,000 refugee families had been forced out of Iran "against their will" and arrived in Herat in the past two months.

"Iran should allow the refugees to be repatriated gradually. Otherwise we will not be able to settle them for a long period," Ismael Khan warned.

He said Iranian Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati had "agreed to a moratorium" on forced repatriation and had held local officials responsible for the crackdown, which "did not reflect government policy."

However, Afghan diplomats and the UNHCR were sceptical about Mr. Besharati's comments saying Tehran had made similar promises before.

Last month Mr. Besharati said Iran would allow more than 500,000 Afghan refugees facing expulsion to stay until next spring.

Around 1.8 million Afghans who fled the Soviet invasion of their country and ensuing civil war still live in Iran, according to official figures.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turabi for worldwide anti-secular front

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese Islamic leader Hassan Al Turabi urged Monday the creation of a broad front of religious believers to counter the "irreligious" value systems presently dominating the globe. Dr. Turabi, secretary general of the Khartoum-based Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, said the major challenge facing believers worldwide was countering irreligious trends trying to impose themselves as international law. Speaking at an inter-religious conference currently in session here, Dr. Turabi said the building of a religious front was based on the unity of heavenly faiths striving for happiness, security and stability. He noted that the world was falling victim to a general movement aimed at distancing humanity from a religious vision of the universe and of life. The present religious awakening was a reaction against this secularism which resulted in capitalist economic injustices and in moral corruption through the disintegration of the family and sexual perversions, Dr. Turabi added.

Rights group urges King Fahd to save Egyptian

CAIRO (AFP) — A human rights group on Monday appealed to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to prevent the flogging of an Egyptian doctor who accused a Saudi headteacher of sexually abusing his son. The doctor has been sentenced to 80 lashes outside a school as pupils are leaving, another 120 lashes over two weeks and 45 days in prison, said the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights. The group urged "the international community and non-governmental organisations to strongly intervene with King Fahd to prevent the flogging of Dr. Mohammad Kamel Khalifa." Dr. Khalifa was held in prison after he lodged a complaint against the headteacher of his son's school, accusing him of injecting his son with an anaesthetic and sexually abusing him, the organisation said in a statement. The doctor is also accused of sending his son and wife back to Egypt before the boy could be put in a Saudi juvenile home, the statement said. The boy is "still suffering from depression, acute anxiety, and fits of crying and fright," and is being treated at a Cairo hospital, it added. The organisation also called on Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa to intervene to secure the doctor's immediate release.

Turkish jets strike at Kurdish base

ANKARA (AP) — Turkish jets have carried out an air raid on a suspected Kurdish rebel camp in northern Iraq, the military said in a statement Monday. The guerrillas of the illegal Kurdish Labour Party, known as the PKK, use bases in northern Iraq to launch hit-and-run attacks inside Turkey. The statement said 21 jets struck at the camp along the border stream at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. All of the jets returned safely to their bases. The statement said the ammunition depot and the gun points at the camp were destroyed in the raid. It gave no accounts of casualties. Turkey's state television played footage taken from the air shortly after the raid, showing smoke coming from barely visible installations in a valley between the mountains. Also Monday, Turkish troops killed 25 guerrillas in separate clashes in eastern and southeastern Turkey, the Anatolia news agency said. The guerrillas killed three soldiers overnight in the Van province, the dispatch said. The guerrillas have been fighting for autonomy since 1984.

Lawyer of Turkish militant arrested

ANKARA (AP) — A court ordered the arrest Monday of a lawyer for a leftist leader captured in France last month. The lawyer, Murat Demir, was charged with membership in his client's gang. Mr. Demir and another attorney, Ahmet Yucel, were detained Sept. 27 shortly before a planned meeting at the French embassy to discuss their client, Dursun Karatas, the founder of Turkey's most violent underground group, Dev-Sol. Mr. Yucel was released by the court. He told the Associated Press that his colleague faced torture during detention. Mr. Yucel said police seized all legal documents related to Mr. Karatas' case. He claimed that some documents were intended to try to block Mr. Karatas' extradition. France normally refuses to extradite suspects who risk the death penalty in their homeland. Mr. Karatas escaped from an Istanbul prison in 1989. Mr. Karatas was captured by French police as he tried to slip through the French-Italian border. A French judge has already charged Mr. Karatas with illegal association, using false documents and receiving stolen documents in relation with a terrorist group.

Drought kills 200 pelicans in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — More than 200 pelicans have died because of a severe drought which has hit swamps in southeastern Iran, the official agency IRNA said Monday. Regional environment protection officer Zabiollah Akrami told IRNA the pelicans had arrived from central Asia to winter on the edges of Lake Hamun, close to the border with Afghanistan. Thousands of migratory birds head every winter for the lake, which covers 200,000 hectares in the Sistan-Baluchistan province.

Israel, Rwanda renew diplomatic ties

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel and Rwanda on Monday renewed diplomatic ties broken off 20 years ago, diplomats said here. The ceremony to launch the new ties took place in the offices of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations in the presence of diplomats from the two countries. Rwanda broke off ties with the Jewish state after the Arab-Israeli war of 1973. Rwanda's ambassador to the U.N. said his country, under a new government since July, hoped for cooperation with Israel in the fields of defence and technology. Israel recently sent a medical team to the Rwandan-Zaire border as part of aid efforts for refugees who fled the bloody civil war.

Rajavi urges Clinton to change line

AUVERS-SUR-OISE, France (R) — The Iranian president, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, urged U.S. President Bill Clinton on Tuesday to end a boycott of the Iranian resistance and recognise that Tehran's rulers were the main source of instability in the Gulf region.

Maraym Rajavi, 41, elected last year by an Iraqi-based exiled National Resistance Council, said the Iranian resistance was building a network inside the country and had an armed force ready in neighbouring Iraq but needed international support.

"The focal point of instability, chaos and fundamentalism in the world right now is the mullahs in Tehran," she told Reuters in an interview at her headquarters in Auvers-sur-Oise, north-west of Paris.

"If you (Clinton) are interested in establishing peace and stability in that region and beyond, you must make up your mind about Iran, especially since the people of Iran no longer want this regime," Ms. Rajavi said.

She appeared frustrated that Iraq's movement of troops close to the border with Kuwait had once again focused world attention on Baghdad instead of Tehran as a source of potential conflict.

"I am hopeful that no problems arise out of this recent development... everyone wants peace and tranquility and not war. Only the mullahs want war and turmoil and conflict because they thrive on it," she said.

Despite pressure in Congress, the Clinton administration has refused to deal with the Mujahideen, citing past anti-American actions, dependence on Iraq and a lack of support inside Iran.

The Mujahideen, originally Islamic leftists, played a key role in the 1979 revolution that ousted the Shah but soon broke with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and were suppressed in a ruthless clampdown that began in 1981.

The Iranian government brands them "monafiqs" (hypocrites) and accuses them of terrorism. Ms. Rajavi said the movement had suffered 100,000 dead and many more jailed and tortured.

Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau told a House of Representatives hearing last week: "The primary base of operations today is in Iraq, with the support, sponsorship and umbrella protection of (President) Saddam Hussein."

"We do not feel that with that background, they have a very wide base of support in Iran," he added.

Ms. Rajavi, whose Baghdad-based husband Masoud Rajavi heads a National Liberation Army that recently held five-fire exercises in Iraq, said an armed force could only be effective if it was within striking distance of the Iranian border, not in Europe or America.

The movement had long ago shed its anti-Americanism and campaigned for human rights and a modern, tolerant version of Islam, she said.

Symbolically, the National Resistance Council has revived the ancient Persian lion-and-sun symbol discarded by the Islamic revolution, but it refuses to deal with the late Shah's son, Reza Pahlavi.

Clark: Cyprus problem is 'close to impasse'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. special envoy for Cyprus, former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark, said Monday the Cyprus problem was "close to an impasse."

Speaking to reporters after giving Security Council members a private briefing, he said: "I indicated, as I had when I was in Cyprus not long ago, that we are close to an impasse on this question."

"My view remains that it is a question that can be resolved, but at the moment we are close to an impasse."

Cyprus has been virtually partitioned since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied the north of the island in reaction to a coup in Nicosia then ruled by Greece.

The Turkish Cypriots declared their own breakaway state in 1983, recognised only by Ankara.

U.N.-sponsored talks aimed at reunifying the island under a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation have been sputtering along for years.

The focus in the past two years has been on a package of confidence-building measures involving the reopening under U.N. control of both Nicosia airport and the deserted resort town of Famagusta for use by both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

Mr. Clark said the situation had been complicated by a recent decision by the European Court of Justice which "created unusual pressure in the north," and by a "decision taken by the so-called assembly of the north with regard to a resolution which states that federation is only one of the options, rather than the only option."

He was referring to a July decision by the European court barring European Union members from buying goods from northern Cyprus, and a resolution by the Turkish Cypriot assembly in August calling for closer links with Turkey and moving away from the idea of a federal solution.



Joe Clark

Mr. Clark, who is working on a report which Secretary-General Boutros Ghali is to present to the Security Council at the end of the month, said: "If we could move away from the atmosphere created by those events it would obviously be helpful."

He continued to believe the confidence-building measures were very important, "but we have to recognise that in some degree, in some

particulars, the two sides... have different details in mind."

Mr. Clark, who was later conferring with the Security Council's five permanent members — the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France — told a questioner that neither he nor anyone else had the power to recommend that the European court change its ruling.

But he said the issue "could be revisited... if there were agreement between the two communities on the island as to a stamp or device that would deal with exports."

He did not elaborate. Mr. Clark did not think the impasse had grown particularly worse in the last three or four weeks, "but obviously the situation today is not as promising as it was when it looked like we could get agreement on the confidence-building measures."

"We do not have the option of doing nothing," he told a questioner, but was unable to say what steps should be taken next.

Thatcher defends Yamamah deal

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party on Monday called for a government inquiry into allegations Mark Thatcher, son of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, made a fortune from a Saudi arms deal signed by his mother.

Mrs. Thatcher defended the multi-billion dollar deal, saying she was "proud that after a great deal of hard work by ministers and officials, it brought thousands of jobs and billions of pounds of exports to this country" in the 1980s.

The former Conservative prime minister, ousted from office in 1990 after 11 years in power, added in a statement that she was "absolutely satisfied that the Al Yamamah contract was properly negotiated between the governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom."

Mrs. Thatcher was responding to the Sunday Times that Mark Thatcher, 41, earned £12 million (\$20 million) in commission for helping to secure the £20 billion (\$31.82 billion) arms deal — the biggest ever signed by Britain.

The allegations came as the ruling Conservative Party prepared for its annual conference, which opens on Tuesday in the south coast resort of Bournemouth, and threatened to worsen the party's image, already tarnished by charges of sleaze and corruption.

The main opposition Labour Party called for a government inquiry into the allegations. But Mark Thatcher, who has been dogged for years by rumours about the sources of his wealth, denied arms trading.

In an interview for Monday's Today newspaper from his home in Dallas, Texas, Mrs. Thatcher dismissed the report.

"The idea that I run around peddling Kalashnikovs or second-hand MIG jets is ridiculous. I haven't even sold a penknife," Mrs. Thatcher who left Britain in the mid-1980s when his shadowy business life first began to blossom.

The newspaper allegations coincide with an opinion poll which showed more than 60 per cent of people deemed the Conservatives "sleazy



Margaret Thatcher

and disreputable."

Conservative Party Chairman Jeremy Hanley said on Monday that Labour's trade and industry spokesman Robin Cook, the man who demanded a government inquiry, was once again acting as "witchfinder-chief."

"That (issue) is a matter for the people concerned, it is nothing to do with this party conference," Mr. Hanley told the BBC, commenting

on the furor swirling around the Thatchers.

The ruling party has already been hurt by allegations about an arms for aid deal with Malaysia and secret arms trading with Iraq before the Gulf war. This "arms-for-Iraq inquiry" set up by Prime Minister John Major in 1992, will report early in 1995.

Mr. Cook said there were two main questions: "What influence did Mark Thatcher sell in return for these millions and how much did Margaret Thatcher use her public office to promote her son to make a private fortune?" he asked.

Under the 1985 Al Yamamah deal, described by British press as the biggest arms deal of the century, Britain agreed to supply Saudi Arabia with jet fighters, naval mine-hunters and helicopters and to build military bases.

The deal was the subject of an investigation by Britain's National Audit Office, a government watchdog. But a key parliamentary committee vetoed the release of the report on the grounds of national security.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Les Tresors Du Monde
18:30 News in French
18:45 E.M.6
19:15 P.M. Magazine
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 Cracking the Code
22:00 News in English
22:30 Poldark
23:10 The Exile

PRAYER TIMES

04:15 Fajr
05:31 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:22 Asr
14:40 'Asr
17:13 Maghrib
18:30 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625453
Assumption Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 649922

Church of Nazareth Tel. 676691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Unstable weather conditions will prevail, so it will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers and winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas choppy.

Min./Max. temp. 18/30

Aqaba 23/37

Deserts 16/32

Jordan Valley 24/38

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 30 Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jihad Ziadah 881148
Dr. Bahjat Badr 849362
Dr. Arabat Ashhab 602507
Dr. Sa'ad Ali 788285
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637053
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Fayez Qadi 273099

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Yousef Hazzalah 988075

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Rescue

Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Civil Defence 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 696390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Aldadi Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 731111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.

642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malles, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mustashfi Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Army, Shmeisani 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)683323
Zarqa National Hospital 66164/6
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)90560
Al-Hikmah Hospital (09)90590
IBRB:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)273335
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
08:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 Larnaca (RJ)
09:25 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:15 Madrid (RJ)
10:35 London (RJ)
17:25 Paris (RJ)
17:25 Istanbul (RJ)
18:40 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
18:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:30 Rome (RJ)
18:45 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:45 Paris (RJ)
20:40 Beirut (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:25 Larnaca (CY)

10:30 Yemen (Y)

10:30 Jeddah (SV)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 Rome (RJ)
10:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
10:35 Berlin, London (RJ)
11:40 Istanbul (RJ)
11:40 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:50 Colombo (RJ)
19:30 Beirut (RJ)
19:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:05 Riyadh (RJ)
20:10 New Delhi (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:40 Bangkok (RJ)
22:40 Sanaa (RJ)
20:30 Aden (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:30 Beirut, Paris (AF)

09:15 Beirut (ME)

11:15 Larnaca (CY)

11:30 Jeddah (SV)

12:00 Rome (IT)

12:10 Cairo (AZ)

13:40 Abu Dhabi (GF)

15:15 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday receives visiting U.S. Governor of Kansas Joan Finney.

Visiting U.S. Kansas state governor sees Jordan as regional trade hub

AMMAN (Petra) — The visiting U.S. Kansas State Governor Joan Finney Tuesday said Jordan could serve as a regional centre for promoting trade, particularly in wheat, in the Middle East.

Speaking at a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Mrs. Finney said that it was important for the United States to cooperate with the Kingdom for a better future for the region.

Princess Basma receives U.S. governor

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday received Joan Finney, governor of the U.S. state of Kansas at the headquarters of Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), said a QAF statement. The governor, who was accompanied by a delegation of high-level officials was briefed on the development projects of QAF in Jordan. Later discussions focused on the role of women in Jordan and the preparations for the Fourth International Women's Conference in Beijing next year. Mrs. Finney expressed her admiration of the development efforts of Jordanian women and explored with Princess Basma opportunities for cooperation between Jordan and the state of Kansas, the statement said.

Earlier Tuesday Mrs. Finney visited the General Union of Bakeries and was briefed on its activities.

She was told that the union was cooperating closely with the Ministry of Supply and bakery owners in handling

issues related to the 1,300 bakeries in the Kingdom.

A spokesman for the union said that plans exist for establishing a specialised institute to train workers for bakery jobs, but, he added, lack of funds is delaying the implementation of the project.

Crown Prince stresses significance of obtaining accurate labour statistics

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday said that the Kingdom still lacks accurate statistics on labour and labourers which are important factors to planners and decision makers.

Addressing the opening of a general conference by the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions at Al Hussein Sports City, Prince Hassan said unions are called on to organise their work and obtain accurate information and statistics from government departments and institutions.

Calling on labour unions to benefit from the expertise of regional and international organisations concerned with labour-related issues, Prince Hassan urged Jordanian unions to attend conferences and take part in activities organised by foreign unions.

The Crown Prince also called on the unions in particular to take part in a social development conference to be held in Denmark in 1995 and a Middle East and North Africa economic conference that is to convene in Morocco this month.

As the Middle East is approaching a new era of regional cooperation, he said, Jordan hopes that through the newly formed Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation it

will fully develop its social and economic sectors, including areas where labourers are involved.

Prince Hassan said that he wished the federation success, especially in addressing questions related to labour markets, vocational training, raising the standard of trades, and ensuring a better future for the labour force.

Expressing satisfaction with the performance and the success achieved by Jordanian industries, Prince Hassan noted that the mining industries of phosphate, potash and fertilisers have been gaining at the regional and international levels, while the garment, textile and pharmaceutical manufacturers are making headway into foreign markets because of the dedication of Jordanian labour.

Referring to investments, Prince Hassan said that until the end of August this year, the capital invested in the country's industries and other businesses registered a 57 per cent increase over figures for the first eight months of 1993, corresponding to JD 236 million this year against JD144 million during the same period last year.

He said such figures are promising for businesses and labour.

Prince Hassan added that he had sought help from a

private investment fund based in Washington to set up a \$150 million dollar fund to finance medium and small industries in the Kingdom. He said he hoped that this project would be established soon to help the country address part of its unemployment problem.

In his address Prince Hassan referred to the Middle East peace process, stressing that Jordan can by no means give up its rights in water and land. The country's stand is crystal clear with regard to peace based on justice, said the Crown Prince.

With reference to his own address before the U.N. General Assembly last week, Prince Hassan said that Jordan stands firm in the face of all kinds of discrimination levelled against Islam and the Muslims in Europe, the Arab countries and all parts of the world.

In addition, Prince Hassan said that Jordan does not support any interference in other countries' internal affairs and respects the sovereignty of all Arab countries. He was referring to recent events in the Gulf.

He also said Jordan calls for an end to the suffering of the people of Iraq and hopes that the Arab Gulf countries would reach an understanding over the settlement of their outstanding differences.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday addresses the opening of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions' general conference (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan stressed the Jordanian policy of striving to attain strong fraternal relations with all Arab countries.

At least 250 union members representing 17 labour unions in Jordan are attending the conference.

Representatives of foreign country unions as well as the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) are also attending the meetings.

Unstable weather to persist — officials

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Unstable weather conditions are expected to continue over the Kingdom in the next two days with thunder showers in most regions, especially in the south and east, according to the Department of Meteorology Tuesday.

A department spokesman said that due to an atmospheric depression over Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom will be affected by hot winds from the southeast accompanied by and storms in the eastern regions.

Wednesday will be cloudy to partly cloudy, with scattered rains. Temperatures are expected to rise 30°C, dropping to 18°C at night.

According to the department, up to noon Tuesday, 38.5 millimetres of rain fell in Ma'an and 23 millimetres were registered in Wadi Mousa near Petra where floods temporarily stranded 500 tourists on Monday. Civil Defence Department (CDD) workers and police were called in with heavy equipment and vehicles to rescue the tourists who were all unharmed, said a CDD statement late Monday night.

A meteorology department spokesman told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the deluge of water which flowed through the Siq has vanished, and there was no longer any danger.

He also reported that the Petra Forum Hotel suffered minor damage from the floods.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FILM

★ Video film entitled "Heat and Dust" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

PLAY

★ Play in Arabic entitled "Lights from Jericho" at the site of the Byzantine Church of Darat Al Funun, Jabal Luweibdeh at 7:30 p.m. (Tel. 643251/2).

NOVEL RECITAL

★ Novel recital by novelist Nazek Damara at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wasfi Tal Street at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 695291)

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions of abstract art by Waddah Al Ward, Ghassan Abu Laban, and Saheb Ahmad at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wasfi Tal Street (Tel. 695291).

Ceramics exhibition by Khaled Abdul Sattar at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of abstract art by Raffi Nasiri at the French Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of abstract art by Amer Fatuhi at Instituto Cervantes (Spanish Cultural Centre) (Tel. 610858).

Exhibition of abstract art by Ali Al Mi'amar at the Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheima (Tel. 826932).

Exhibition of watercolours by Vladimir Tamari at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).

Oriental pieces exhibition at Gallery Mariam (Tel. 824425).

Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ab'ad Art Gallery (Tel. 862105).

Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boullata entitled "Poets, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists" (Tel. 643251/2).

"The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.



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U.N. softens opposition to NATO airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs

BRUSSELS (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has responded to NATO's latest demand for a wider use of air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs with an apparent softening of his opposition, a diplomatic source at NATO said Tuesday.

In a reply to the detailed proposals NATO sent him last week, Dr. Ghali did not rule out the extension of retaliatory attacks to several targets at a time and asked the alliance to send a mission to New York further explain their position, the source said.

Dr. Ghali remains opposed to letting NATO hit without warning but the tone of his short letter was said to be markedly different from the very cool response given last week to a similar plea from the U.S., British and French defence ministers.

NATO has been pushing for a more robust use of air strikes in response to violations of U.N. safe havens in Bosnia or attacks on U.N. peacekeepers as it believes the selective use of "pin-prick" strikes employed so far has failed to deter the Serbs.

That has put it in open

dispute with the United Nations, which has backed the more cautious line advocated by its commanders on the ground, who fear intensified air strikes could escalate the conflict and put U.N. Protection Force troops in danger.

Dr. Ghali's modification of his position follows a similar softening of the NATO line. The letter sent by the alliance Friday made it clear that the "multiple targets" and "no-warning" options were not to be applied systematically and that there was no question of warnings not being given if civilian lives would be endangered.

That was a long way from the call, made by U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry two weeks ago, for a display of "compelling force" to force the Serbs to accept the international peace plan designed to end a war that has dragged on for over two and a half years.

One diplomat suggested that the movement on both sides showed the priority now was to reach agreement and repair the damage done by over a month of public division between the two organisations.

"What we don't want to do is to further promote the

perceived view of a NATO-U.N. split," he said. Russia warned Tuesday it opposed giving NATO a freer hand on air strikes against Bosnian Serbs and asserted consultation at the U.N. Security Council remained a prerequisite for foreign military action there.

The Russian side is seriously concerned," by NATO's request to call in air strikes without giving advance warning on the timing and targets of those strikes to the warring forces on the ground, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman, Grigori Karasins, said this view was spelled out in a letter sent by Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev to leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). "The leading role of the Security Council should be stressed everywhere, including air strikes."

"We should rule out disproportionate or one-sided actions, which are not acceptable," Mr. Karasins told reporters at a weekly briefing.

Meanwhile Bosnian Serbs drove 21 Muslims out of eastern Bosnia in an ethnic cleansing operation carried out shortly after the two sides

had exchanged 20 prisoners, aid officials said Tuesday. The Muslims were rounded up from the village of Burati near the Serb-held eastern town of Rogatica late Monday and forced across Sarajevo's Bridge of Brotherhood and Unity.

Earlier, 10 Muslim prisoners of war had crossed the same bridge as 10 Serbs were released simultaneously by the Bosnian authorities in the besieged eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde, an aid official said.

The expulsions were a repeat of an incident last Wednesday, when the Serbs ordered 120 Muslims from their homes in eastern Bosnian villages and forced them across the same bridge, only hours before 295 Muslim and Serb prisoners were released there in the biggest prisoner swap in seven months.

"It is important for the people to have confidence," said Cpl. Stephane Martinielli, a French soldier who volunteered to ride back and forth along the most dangerous stretch of so-called sniper alley. He was without his helmet and flak jacket normally worn by U.N. peacekeepers.



A Russian U.N. soldier who was moved in to support an anti-sniper squad talks with several Bosnian girls. The anti-sniping team was called in after attacks on the city's trams (AFP photo)

Shanghai sentences 3 top dissidents

SHANGHAI (R) — At least three Shanghai dissidents have been sentenced to lengthy terms of "re-education through labour," and the wife of one of the men began a 24-hour hunger strike Tuesday in protest, their family members said.

Families of Yang Zhou and Bao Ge were told by authorities Tuesday that the two leading human rights campaigners had been handed three-year sentences.

Mr. Yang's wife, Li Guoping, told Reuters she immediately began a fast.

Public Security Bureau agents Friday last week told the family of another activist, Yang Qinhong, that he too had been sentenced to three years, dissident sources said Tuesday.

In all three cases relatives were handed a terse written

notice that gave no reasons for the punishment. "Re-education through labour" is a form of administrative detention that avoids the need for a court trial. Three years is the maximum penalty, although in practice this can be extended on a year-by-year basis.

Mr. Yang Zhou was held on May 12 this year by police who dragged him from his home. Mr. Bao and Mr. Yang Qinhong disappeared around the same time and relatives have not been allowed to see them since.

Their sentences will take effect from the time they were detained.

Mr. Yang Zhou is a founder member of the Shanghai-based Association for Human Rights. Mr. Bao has angered authorities with his persistent demands for compensation

from Japan for Chinese victims of Japanese wartime atrocities. Mr. Yang Qinhong is a businessman. All three have had long spells in jail for their roles in the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and an earlier round of pro-democracy agitation in the late 1970s.

A distraught Li, the wife of Mr. Yang Zhou, said she was very concerned about her husband, who is in poor health.

"Police told me his attitude has been extremely hostile," she said. "They said he hasn't admitted any mistakes, and this has made me anxious. I'm afraid he won't be treated very well," Mrs. Li added.

She said she has not been allowed to send any money, food or medicine to her husband, who was initially held in a local police station.

Chechenya denies heavy casualties in attack

MOSCOW (R) — Authorities in Russia's rebel Chechenya region Monday denied that 24 of its soldiers had died in a weekend helicopter attack by Moscow-backed opposition forces.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted a statement by Aslan Maskhadov, head of the Chechen general staff, denying the report of heavy damage and casualties and blaming it on opposition attempts to "create an illusion of active combat activities in Chechenya."

Work to pull victims from under the hospital debris is still going on. It is presumed there are two more victims under the wreckage," the embassy said.

It added that 813 people had left the islands by Monday following the earthquake which hit the Kurils and Japan's northernmost prefecture, Hokkaido.

Japan's Meteorological Agency Tuesday revised the Richter-scale intensity of the tremor from 7.9 in its earlier report to 8.1.

"Delivery of humanitarian aid from neighbouring countries, mostly from Japan, has been started," the Russian embassy said Tuesday.

It said Kuril islanders were now working hard at reconstruction.

Japan's Foreign Minister Secretary Koizumi Igarashi said Tuesday that the Japanese government would provide relief goods for the islanders in the near future.

General Higinio Carneiro, spokesman for the government team which has been negotiating with UNITA in Zambia since November, said he hoped an accord could be reached as early as this week.

"We are doing everything. That is our objective and we are mandated to do that," he told the official Angolan News Agency (ANGOP).

Gen. Carneiro, one of Angola's most senior generals, blamed UNITA for a series of impasses which have held up a ceasefire agreement at the U.N.-mediated talks in Lusaka.

The state-run daily newspaper Jornal De Angola said the rebels shelled government positions around the northern town of N'Dalato Sunday and near the northeastern diamond town of Dundo Friday but it gave no more details.

Fighting raged last week in the southern towns of Quilengues, Quipungo, Chicombe, Cuvango and Caluquembe, state radio said.

It said the towns, all in Huila province, were captured by the government the week before last. No more information was available.

The radio also reported fighting near the northern city of Malange, which has been besieged by UNITA for nearly two years.

No independent confirmation of the reports was available.

As special adviser to Cambodian Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivudh.

The 3,500-word cable said, among other things: "Corruption at every level of society has again become a way of life." It urged Canberra "not to lose its nerve" on Cambodia however and recommended Australia consider training the Cambodian army.

Mr. Holloway, 52, is considered one of Australia's most senior and experienced Asian experts.

Of King Sihanouk, Mr. Holloway said: "The antics of the king have also been disruptive — still pathetically pursuing power although ridged with cancer, he has belittled the government, tried to cause splits in the ruling groups and thrown aside the government strategy of outlawing the Khmer Rouge."

The cabinet statement said King Sihanouk was a factor of stability for Cambodia and that the ailing monarch had worked actively throughout his life to reconcile all Khmer people.

"We deeply regret that His Excellency Holloway, for whom His Majesty has much friendship, has chosen this moment to unjustly denigrate him."

"This behaviour is not worthy of a diplomat of his rank especially as our king is already old and moreover, ill," the statement said.

U.S. mid-term elections could spell disaster for Democrats

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Midterm elections have traditionally spelled trouble for the party in the White House and this year even the most entrenched Democrats are fighting for their political lives.

As the countdown continues to the Nov. 8 elections, liberal Titans such as Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy and House Speaker Thomas Foley are spending off serious challenges from their opponents.

The Republicans are hoping to seize control of the Senate for the first time since 1986 and some are even eyeing the House of Representatives, which the Democrats have dominated for 40 years.

The numbers show they might just pull it off.

Republicans need seven victories for a majority in the Senate, which has 55 of the 100 seats up for grabs — 22 of them currently held by Democrats.

No incumbent is running in nine of those races, a factor which along with President Bill Clinton's plummeting approval ratings bolsters Re-

publican chances to wrest control of the Senate. Republicans would need a less-realistic 40-seat gain in the 435-member House for a majority, but even a modest advance in that chamber could throw up roadblocks to the major reforms Mr. Clinton hopes to get through Congress next year.

Since 1948, the party in power has lost an average of 20 House seats in the mid-term elections which fall two years after the presidential vote, but the losses are always heavier when the chief executive is an unpopular one.

Clinton's popularity has bottomed out at around 40 per cent recently and Democrats across the country have been trying to distance themselves from their party chief.

Georgia Representative Don Johnson echoed that sentiment when he said recently that the White House was welcomed to join his campaign but "only if they're going to endorse my opponent."

General disgust with the government and anti-incumbency fever is compounding problems for the

Democrats, who control the White House, the Senate and the House. A Time magazine poll recently showed 48 per cent of Americans, whatever their party affiliation, would vote for an incumbent's opponent. Even if Democrats maintain a numerical advantage, Republican gains could cause headaches for the White House which has had trouble enough with passing legislation despite Mr. Clinton's campaign promises to end the gridlock in Congress.

Despite the Democratic majority, most of the administration's bills this year have squeaked by on just a few votes and Mr. Clinton's cherished health care reform plan had to be benched until next year.

Several Republicans are posing serious challenges against Democratic governors — including Mario Cuomo in New York and Ann Richards in Texas. Those states will be key in the 1996 presidential vote and many Republicans are hoping that a sweep in 1994 will improve the party's chances in two years.

Russian death toll from quake expected to reach 11

TOKYO (AFP) — The death toll in the Russian-held Kuril Islands from last Tuesday's massive earthquake is expected to rise to 11, the Russian embassy said here Tuesday.

"As of Oct. 10, the number of dead was nine, including victims pulled from under the ruins of the military hospital" on Etorofu, one of four Kuril Islands north of Japan, the embassy said in a news release.

Work to pull victims from under the hospital debris is still going on. It is presumed there are two more victims under the wreckage," the embassy said.

It added that 813 people had left the islands by Monday following the earthquake which hit the Kurils and Japan's northernmost prefecture, Hokkaido.

Japan's Meteorological Agency Tuesday revised the Richter-scale intensity of the tremor from 7.9 in its earlier report to 8.1.

"Delivery of humanitarian aid from neighbouring countries, mostly from Japan, has been started," the Russian embassy said Tuesday.

It said Kuril islanders were now working hard at reconstruction.

Japan's Foreign Minister Secretary Koizumi Igarashi said Tuesday that the Japanese government would provide relief goods for the islanders in the near future.

Wary of Russia, Finns weigh EU benefits

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The perceived instability of Finland's giant neighbour Russia has strongly marked attitudes to next Sunday's referendum on joining the European Union (EU). A majority of Finns regard the EU as an organisation which will finally provide shelter from the vagaries of developments in Russia.

The proximity of the two countries made Russia Finland's main trading partner for many years, and Finland was forced to maintain a scrupulous neutrality. The collapse of communism has brought scant reassurance. "Russia remains unpredictable" is a constant refrain when one talks to Finns about the future.

The latest opinion poll in Helsinki shows a clear lead for the pro-Europeans at 49 per cent, with 26 per cent against and 25 per cent undecided.

Finland's worrying economic situation is another factor which makes EU membership seem inviting. Doubts have been voiced by farmers, however, and some are openly opposed to the EU, for fear of losing out on government help to cope with Finland's harsh climatic conditions which persist more than half the year.

Women voters are unimpressed by the social security provisions in the rest of Europe, regarding them as distinctly inferior to local standards of care. They fear a levelling downwards.

The same reluctance is felt among farmers and women in Sweden and Norway.

Sri Lanka army irked by digging for leftist bones

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The new Sri Lankan government is digging up grim evidence of a brutal crackdown against leftwingers in the late 1980s, and soldiers are worried about what the bones being unearthed portend for them.

"Too many excavations might not be too good," a senior army officer said Tuesday. He was one of many concerned by the apparent zeal with which the government was digging up evidence of the military's excesses. Human-rights groups have said up to 60,000 people died or went missing in the military's bloody "counter-subversive" campaign to crush the rebels of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front, between 1988 and 1990.

Both sides used death squads to cut each other's ranks but most of the killings were by shadowy groups linked to the security forces.

"The military feels they came out at the behest of the state to quell the insurgents who were about to topple the government," said a defence analyst. "Now they feel they are being made scapegoats."

Last week, a Sri Lankan court remanded an army brigadier and five soldiers over the disappearance of 31 schoolboys during the violence.

Military sources say they are particularly upset by the manner in which accused army officers are brought handcuffed to court.

The analyst said that while the government had to charge those against whom there was evidence it could be more discreet.

"It could have been done on a low key," he said. "The army is fighting a war in the north and east against Tamil separatist rebels and this kind of thing does not help

morale." The Mothers' Front, representing the families of Sri Lanka's "missing", has been agitating for a government investigation into the killings to find out the fate of their loved ones.

Forensic experts dug up several mass graves in various parts of Sri Lanka in recent weeks and are to excavate several more. The new People's Alliance (PA) government, which won power in August's general election, has promised to investigate human-rights violations by the armed forces. But it has taken pains to say it is not on a witchhunt and that the main purpose of the excavations was to dig up the truth.

Justice Minister G.I. Peiris says the investigations are required to pay compensation to the victims' families, many of whom were rendered destitute by the loss of breadwinners.

On Monday, the skeletons of six youths whose blindfolded, burning bodies were seen by villagers in April, 1989, were dug up from a mass grave in the southern Ratnapura district.

The latest gravesite was in the foothills of a mountain where another mass grave was found earlier this year. Political analysts say the excavations could cost the government votes in November's presidential election.

Many soldiers who voted for the PA might not do so next month if they felt the military was being discredited and that they could be charged for excesses.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's new government supported moves to invite foreign monitors for next month's presidential elections following violence and allegations of ballot-rigging in previous elections, officials here said Tuesday.

Khmer Rouge free 60 after 7 weeks in captivity

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — Around 60 men who were abducted by Khmer Rouge guerrillas for forced labour seven weeks ago have returned to their homes in Cambodia's Kompong Speu province which borders the capital, a local paper reported Tuesday.

Some captives managed to escape in recent weeks but the majority were released by the guerrillas after they contracted malaria or scarlet fever while being forced to work in the forest, the English language Cambodia Daily reported.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas abducted a group of 25 men in Udong about 40 kilometres north of the capital on Aug. 19.

The group was forced at gun point to walk for five days to a Khmer Rouge forest camp where they joined some 35 other captives, the paper quoted one of the freed men as saying.

The men were forced to work long hours clearing forest so the guerrillas could put the land to agricultural use. The guerrillas gave the captives little food and confined them at night to a cramped wooden hut.

A few men managed to escape while being put to work as porters, transferring ammunition to another Khmer Rouge base several days' walk away.

Those caught trying to escape were shackled

together and forced to work bound in chains, the paper said. The Khmer Rouge also threatened to burn down the village homes of any people who managed to escape. The former captives said they were grateful to be back home but said they were in dire need of food and medicine. They also said they were afraid that the guerrillas would return.

"When we hear dogs barking we run and hide," said one of the men, stricken by malaria. "I am in very bad condition. I think I will have to leave this area," he added.

Local aid agency officials said that although attention had been focussed on the plight of three young Western backpackers seized by the Khmer Rouge in a train ambush in adjacent Kampot province on July 26, kidnapping of Cambodians was a common occurrence.

Poor people and peasants were taken and made to work in the fields or as porters carrying guerrilla supplies while wealthy Cambodians were held for ransom, the aid agency officials said.

Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, Briton Mark Slater, 28 and Australian David Wilson are being held in one of the guerrillas' jungle bases on the remote, rain-drenched and malarial Phnom Vour (Vine Mountain).

There have been no reports, however, on their fate. The Khmer Rouge are also reported to be holding a number of Cambodians in their bases on Phnom Vour. There have also been conflicting reports about whether three Vietnamese, who were seized in the same bloody train ambush, are still alive.

Meanwhile, Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk's office has blasted a former Australian ambassador over a leaked cable which accused the monarch of "pathetically trying to pursue power."

The cabinet of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia is scandalised by the slanderous and unfounded criticisms of our sovereign by his excellency John Holloway, former Australian ambassador to Cambodia," said the statement, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters Tuesday.

"As to power, our king does not dream for a moment of retaking it, having sworn before the throne to respect the constitution," it said.

The royal rebuke was dated Oct. 10 and issued by the royal cabinet in Beijing, where the 71-year-old King Sihanouk is receiving medical treatment for cancer and other ailments.

Last week, two Australian newspapers published details of a leaked cable written in June by Holloway before he took up an invitation to serve

as special adviser to Cambodian Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivudh. The 3,500-word cable said, among other things: "Corruption at every level of society has again become a way of life." It urged Canberra "not to lose its nerve" on Cambodia however and recommended Australia consider training the Cambodian army.

Mr. Holloway, 52, is considered one of Australia's most senior and experienced Asian experts.

Of King Sihanouk, Mr. Holloway said: "The antics of the king have also been disruptive — still pathetically pursuing power although ridged with cancer, he has belittled the government, tried to cause splits in the ruling groups and thrown aside the government strategy of outlawing the Khmer Rouge."

The cabinet statement said King Sihanouk was a factor of stability for Cambodia and that the ailing monarch had worked actively throughout his life to reconcile all Khmer people.

"We deeply regret that His Excellency Holloway, for whom His Majesty has much friendship, has chosen this moment to unjustly denigrate him."

"This behaviour is not worthy of a diplomat of his rank especially as our king is already old and moreover, ill," the statement said.

U.K. awaits 1st National Lottery since 1826

LONDON (R) — Britain's first National Lottery since 1826 kicks off on Nov. 14 when punters get the chance to buy tickets that might just make them millionaires. The first draw will be televised the following Saturday and the jackpot could be as much as £2 million (\$3.18 million), lottery operator Camelot said. Tickets will cost £1 (\$1.59). Punters buy a slip and six numbers. If three of them, in any order, match the six numbers chosen in the live TV draw, they win. If all six numbers correspond, punters hit the jackpot. Five matched numbers will win around £1,500 (\$2,387) while matching five numbers plus a bonus number will win £100,000 (\$159,000). Camelot said. The odds of exactly matching all six main numbers are one in 13,983,816, it added. Camelot is a consortium made up of confectionary giant Cadbury Schweppes, U.S. lottery expert Grech Holdings, specialist printer De La Rue, Rascal Electronics and computer firm ICL.

Caged children removed from home

HALIFAX, Mass. (AP) — Three boys were removed from their home after social workers learned that at least two of them were regularly locked in dog cages. The three, ages 4, 6 and 7, have been placed in foster care, said Lorraine Carli, spokeswoman for the Department of Social Services. No charges have been filed against the children's mother, Dianne Fabiano, or their grandmother, Virginia Steele, who lived with the children in a home about 50 kilometres (30 miles) south-east of Boston. Social workers and police who entered the home on Sept. 21 found the 6-year-old locked in a portable dog cage in his bedroom, Carli said. The boy told police his mother put him in the cage when he misbehaved, according to documents filed in Plymouth district court, the Enterprise of Brockton reported Sunday. Two other cages were found in the house, with blankets inside. Mrs. Steele told social workers that the two younger boys were locked in dog cages at night to prevent them from hurting their mother. Mrs. Fabiano had awakened one night to find one of the boys standing over her with scissors, Mrs. Steele said.

Tobacco kills half-a-million women a year

PARIS (AFP) — Tobacco is killing 500,000 women a year around the world and the death rate is rising, the ninth World Conference on Smoking and Health was told here. Although the death rate among women is falling in Britain and has stabilised in the United States and while smoking has slowed in northern Europe, the number of women smokers is sharply increasing in southern Europe. In France, young women top the smoking charts — 46 per cent in the 15 to 24 age group compared with five per cent of the over-55s. In Spain, 49 per cent of young women are smokers. The consequences are lung and mouth cancer, cancer of the larynx and oesophagus, heart disease, strokes and respiratory diseases, with a higher risk for women taking the contraceptive pill, the conference was told. More than 1,000 delegates from 75 countries are attending the five-day conference which opened Monday under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Ivana Trump celebrates engagement

LONDON (R) — Ivana Trump, the former wife of New York property tycoon Donald Trump, has celebrated her engagement to Italian engineer Riccardo Mazzucchelli with a party for 120 friends at a British mansion. The ex-fashion model and former ski star, who separated from Mr. Trump in a blaze of publicity, held the party Monday and is planning to wed Mr. Mazzucchelli in Florida next March. Ivana told reporters that the £60,000 (\$95,980) party which was attended by actress Britt Ekland, arms dealer Adnan Khushoggi and British tycoon Richard Branson was designed to say thank you to friends and to the press.



FLOODS IN SPAIN: Volunteers try to remove a car stuck in floodwaters and mud after the river in Cambrils, Spain, burst its banks following heavy rains in the region of

Tarragona Monday. One person was missing after being swept away by the floods (AFP photo)

S. Korea tells U.S. to slow down in N. Korea nuclear talks

GENEVA (Agencies) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Tuesday urged Washington to slow down in its drive to reach a nuclear agreement with North Korea at long-running talks in Geneva.

Mr. Kim was speaking in an interview with the CNN Television network broadcast around the work as U.S. and North Korean negotiators in the Swiss city were moving into higher gear in what officials said was an attempt to overcome major differences. The rift between Seoul and Washington over how to tackle North Korea's suspect nuclear program deepened Tuesday with South Korea accusing the United States of rushing into an ill-considered accord with the North simply to pull off a diplomatic coup.

Newspapers here quoted unnamed officials as saying the angry accusations were spurred by Seoul's dismay at learning of the broad outline of an agreement Washington was considering presenting to North Korea at the negotiating table in Geneva.

In Seoul, U.S. Ambassador James Laney was called into the Foreign Office by

Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo, their second meeting in two days, and informed of South Korean "concern" over the proposed agreement, officials said.

The Han-Laney meeting followed a top-level security meeting here and came after top presidential advisor on security, Chung Chong Wook, had telephoned his counterpart Anthony Lake to detail the differences, newspapers said.

Sources and newspapers said Seoul was unhappy over several points in the reported proposal.

The points of difference included special inspections of the North's suspect facilities, the proposed timing of the opening of liaison offices in each others' capitals, the resumption of an Inter-Korean dialogue and the type of nuclear reactor to be offered to Pyongyang.

"The United States is rushing for an agreement to score a diplomatic coup," the Joong-Ang daily quoted Mr. Chung as saying, as President Kim Young-Sam's ruling party issued a statement backing the headline stand.

The rift burst into the open Friday when New York

Times and Japan's Asahi Shimbun published interviews with Mr. Kim in which he lambasted the United States for making too many compromises and called its negotiating posture "half-backed" and naive.

Embarrassment here Monday over the interviews turned to a united stand behind Mr. Kim Tuesday when his ruling party echoed his hardline criticism.

The party statement, announced by its spokesman Park Bum-Jin after a meeting of key officials early Tuesday, called the U.S. negotiating stance "conciliatory" and said "preparedness for war is a must in negotiations with the Communists."

"According to press reports on the Geneva talks, the United States appears to be going beyond its accord with South Korea," Mr. Park said.

"The accords call for pushing through special inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities so as to guarantee the North's transparency in its nuclear programme, and for providing the North with a South Korean light water reactor."

In his interviews Mr. Kim

was quoted as saying that no more compromises should be made with the North at a time when it was close to economic and political collapse.

The comments aroused consternation in the United States Sunday when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoned Mr. Han Sung-Joo from Israel to express his "concern."

Mr. Christopher later downplayed the disagreement, and said Seoul and Washington had no major differences in their positions on how to persuade the North to give up its suspect nuclear programme.

The latest reports from Geneva have characterised the ongoing negotiations as "totally deadlocked" over two points — the timing of special outside inspections of two nuclear sites and the refuelling and restarting of a 5-megawatt reactor at the North's Yongbyong nuclear complex.

North Korea has for the past two months heaped invective on the South Korean president, blaming him for a crackdown on radicals and leftists in the South.

Conservatives give Thatcher muted welcome

BOURNEMOUTH, England (R) — A careworn Margaret Thatcher won little more than polite applause Tuesday from a Conservative Party annual conference clouded by controversy over allegations concerning her son's role in a big arms deal.

Delegates who used to roar their welcome for minutes on end and applauded the former British prime minister for just 40 seconds when she arrived for the first session of the ruling party's four-day gathering in this southern seaside resort.

Lady Thatcher, dressed in imperial purple, looked pale and drawn as she took her seat on the main podium. She said by sides to be heart-

broken that allegations of influence-peddling have overshadowed the conference.

The sleaze charges stem from a report in the Sunday Times newspaper that said

her son, Mark, earned £12 million (\$19 million) brokering a huge arms deal with Saudi Arabia signed by his mother in the late 1980s when she was prime minister.

Mark, who lives in Dallas, Texas, has strongly denied any wrongdoing but has said he would face a "no-win situation" if he returned to Britain to face an inquiry.

His mother, replaced by Mr. Major in November 1990 after an internal party coup, broke her silence Monday to say she was absolutely satisfied that the £20 billion (\$31.7 billion) Al-Yamamah sale of British arms had been properly negotiated.

"She is proud that after a great deal of hard work by ministers and officials it brought thousands of jobs and billions of pounds of exports to this country," a statement issued through her London office said.

Aides said Mr. Major, who

met Lady Thatcher for coffee Tuesday morning, was privately furious that she had spoiled the start of the annual gathering of the Conservative faithful for the second year in a row.

Last year it was the publication of her memoirs, with their unflattering judgment of Mr. Major, that did the damage.

The prime minister refused to add anything to Lady Thatcher's statement, leaving it to top Conservatives to try to limit the damage on a government already viewed by a majority of voters as sleazy and worn out after 15 years in power.

Employment Secretary Michael Portillo spoke of "dark propaganda" being used against the Conservatives.

Sir Marcus Fox, a leading member of parliament, said it could be no accident that the mud-slinging coincided with

the start of the conference. "I see in all this a plot," Mr. Fox told British Broadcasting Corporation Radio.

But the Conservatives did further damage to their image when Michael Dobbs, a deputy party chairman, mentioned Labour leader Tony Blair in the same breath as Gerry Adams, the head of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing.

Both men, he said in a newspaper interview, seemed to be reluctant to use certain words.

The rows will make it harder for Mr. Major to hit back against Labour, the main opposition party, which holds a big poll lead and is in buoyant mood after its own conference last week.

Mr. Major signalled the line of attack he intends to use in a morale-boosting speech to party workers Monday evening.

4 die during Pakistan strike

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — At least four people were killed and several were injured in sporadic violence Tuesday as a general strike called by the Pakistani opposition disrupted in many parts of the country, opposition sources and witnesses said.

A woman and a man were fatally shot and injured when unidentified gunmen fired on a bus in the northwestern town of Charsadda, local residents said, while opposition sources said one person died at Gujrat in Punjab province.

In Karachi, where commercial and industrial activity was at a standstill, one person was shot dead in sniper firing and police also found two decomposing bodies.

A road accident also claimed lives of five workers of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in the Punjab capital of Lahore, official sources said.

The Lahore deaths occurred when PPP workers perched on the roof of a minibus were hit by overhead bars as the vehicle passed under a bridge, an official said, adding that 13 injured workers were hospitalised.

The main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) leaders said incidents of police shooting resulting in casualties had occurred in half a dozen cities across the country.

As the PML headquarters here awaited figures on casualties from its branches, the party's secretary, Sartaj Aziz, told a news conference the strike called by opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, a former premier, had been "successful."

Mr. Aziz said business houses, factories, shops and markets had observed a "complete" shutdown while 80 to 90 per cent of transport remained off the roads, excepting public vehicles which had been "commandeered by police" in advance.

He said the public response to the strike call despite nationwide arrests of "thousands" of workers and leaders of PML should "open the eyes" of Ms. Bhutto.

Mr. Aziz did not put any exact figure on the arrests, but another spokesman for the party, Siddique Ali Farooq, later said the total surpassed 20,000 over past three days, including 50 MPs and provincial deputies.

Officials in Lahore denied a PML claim that Mr. Sharif himself was not allowed to leave his residence in Lahore. They said no restrictions were imposed and Mr. Sharif was "free to move."

The former premier twice went out of his residence during the day, driving his car in the morning and later toured some areas on foot, the officials said.

A government spokesman denied the strike as an "absolute failure" and said trains were running, flights were operating and traffic plied the roads.

"If there has been a limited impact, it is only the opposition attempt to create a

Problems hamper integration of rebels into S. African army

WALMANSTHAL, South Africa (AFP) — The South African army faces major problems in integrating some 27,000 soldiers from the black liberation movements, many of whom have mutinied, army officers acknowledged Tuesday.

Major General Bertie Botha, deputy army chief in charge of the integration, said that the integration process had virtually ground to a

halt because large number of former guerrillas were refusing to return to their bases.

At Walmansthal military camp, just north of Pretoria, only 1,300 former guerrillas out of a total of 7,500 were in the base, the rest being absent without leave (AWOL), Gen. Botha told journalists at a briefing on the base.

Some 21,000 members of the ruling African National Congress army, Umkhonto

We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation or MK) and some 6,000 members of the militant Pan Africanist Congress Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) are due to be integrated into the defence force.

The problems at Walmansthal and two other integration bases are to receive the "urgent" attention of President Nelson Mandela, his spokesman said Tuesday, without giving further details.

Austria's Haider works on conservative split

VIENNA (R) — Signs of a serious split in Austria's conservative People's Party emerged Tuesday after its worst election result since 1945, and far-right leader Joerg Haider seized the opportunity to widen the rift.

Mr. Haider offered to cooperate with a minority conservative government, providing they dumped their leader Erhard Busek.

He stopped short of offering a formal coalition, which would bring his far right into power for the first time.

Mr. Haider made his proposal at a news conference in Vienna shortly before a crucial meeting of the People's Party executive.

At the same time, Austrian President Thomas Klestil accepted the resignation of the outgoing coalition government and swore in the same cabinet as a caretaker administration pending talks on a fresh coalition.

Mr. Busek, in an outspoken interview published in the mass-circulation Kurier newspaper, said a dissident minority inside his own ranks "certainly cost me four per cent of the vote" in Sunday's general election.

Among the dissidents he named was Foreign Minister Alois Mock, who hinted dur-

ing the election campaign that the conservatives could pull off a radical switch of allegiance and form a partnership with the far right.

The People's Party, which has governed in coalition with the Social Democrats for the past eight years, lost 4.4 per cent of its 1990 vote, chalking up a near disastrous 27.7 per cent.

Mr. Busek said if it had not been for Mr. Mock and others, "we would have been just as strong as before."

Mr. Haider's Freedom Party made the biggest gains in the election, scoring 22.6 per cent and becoming the strongest anti-immigrant party in Europe.

With 52 and 42 seats respectively, the People's Party and Freedom Party could in theory form a government, albeit with a slim majority.

Mr. Haider told a news conference Tuesday he would be willing to delegate non-party experts into a new government headed by the conservatives while upholding his pledge to remain in opposition.

"We would act as a control on the cabinet supporting it where we considered it to be competent and criticising it where we think it deserved it," he said.

Plague cases fall in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The number of people testing positive for pneumonic plague in India has fallen dramatically with just a few cases reported since Monday, health officials said Tuesday.

Only three people tested positive for plague in the Indian capital Monday, taking the total number of plague sufferers in New Delhi to 65, said Vina Das, a doctor at the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) here.

"There has been only a slight increase in the number of positive cases," the NICD official told AFP. "Improvement is definitely there."

In Surat, where the first case of plague was diagnosed on Sept. 20, only one suspected plague victim was admitted Monday to the Civil Hospital.

A total of 118 people have tested positive for plague in Surat, in Gujarat state, since the outbreak began, the NICD said.

Ashok Narayan, a state official in charge of anti-plague operations in Gujarat, said the epidemic was "under control" and the city of two million people was fast returning to normal.

Cult 'third man' identified among Switzerland dead

GENEVA (Agencies) — Camille Pilet, third-in-command of the Order of the Solar Temple cult, has been identified among 23 corpses found in the village of Cheiry last week, the judge leading the inquiry said Tuesday.

In a statement, Judge Andre Piller added that a 22 calibre pistol found in the village of Granges-Sur-Alva had been the weapon used on 20 of the Cheiry victims.

The news means that of the three sect leaders only Belgian Luc Joutet, who has an international arrest warrant out in his name, is still missing. Police said Monday that sect chief Joseph Di Mambro was among 25 who died in Granges.

Mr. Pile was a 68-year-old Swiss who was once sales director of a Swiss watchmaking firm. A close associate of Mr. Joutet with houses in Switzerland and Monte Carlo, he was said to be the cult's banker.

Judge Piller added that 23 aluminium sachets had been found in a dustbin in the basement of the Cheiry farmhouse. Twenty-one of them were empty but two contained a "powder which has not yet been identified."

The judge said last week that there was evidence that

the Cheiry victims had been administered a powerful drug before their deaths.

A fourth figure, Canadian businessman Jean-Pierre Vinet, emerged in Swiss reports as possibly holding the key to the mystery of why 53 people died — some murdered — in the two countries last week.

Swiss reporters close to police in the two cantons where the bodies of cult members were found in Alpine chalets and at an idyllic farm said the corpse of cult treasurer Camille Pilet had been identified by relatives.

Police announced Monday that Joseph Di Mambro, the 70-year-old mastermind and presumed "pope" of the order, was among 48 sect members who met bizarre deaths in the villages of Granges and Cheiry.

According to Swiss newspaper and radio reports, Mr. Pilet's body was among 23 found at Cheiry — many of them lying in a circle clad in cult robes near the basement temple and shot through the head. Mr. Di Mambro died in Granges, 160 kilometres away.

"All eyes must now be on Joutet," said the Tribune De Geneve and 24 Heures in identical reports. The handsome 46-year-old Belgian

homeopathic doctor was the main guru of the sect and known as a charismatic speaker.

Former sect members have described him as "clearly unbalanced." Family members in Belgium who had not seen him for years said his behaviour was "irrational."

Police said at the weekend they had an international arrest warrant out for Mr. Joutet and Mr. Di Mambro. But they do not exclude the possibility that Mr. Joutet also may be among the dead in Granges, where many bodies were burned beyond easy recognition.

Officials in Canada — where five people died — and Australia are investigating the possibility that top figures in the sect used it as a cover for an international arms-smuggling and money-laundering racket.

At least two major Swiss banks have launched investigations into accounts held by known cult members.

If Mr. Joutet were also known to have died, then there is no doubt Swiss police would be looking for other leaders of either the Swiss or the Canadian branches of the cult whose members prepared for an imminent armed attack.

In this case Mr. Vinet, said

in Swiss press reports from Canada to have flown to Europe late last month to try to reconcile differences between the two cult branches, would come firmly into the limelight.

The Lausanne daily Le Matin said Tuesday that Mr. Joutet and Mr. Vinet had been close and were unhappy with developments in the order. "They disagreed with the way certain gurus were operating," it quoted one sect member in Quebec as saying.

According to the newspaper, these differences had led to Mr. Joutet losing his position as cult leader in Canada to Robert Falardeau, mayor of the community of Richelieu near Montreal — who, with his wife, was among the dead in Switzerland.

Le Matin said Mr. Vinet had been seen at a restaurant near Cheiry on Oct. 1 — four days before the Granges chalets and the Cheiry farm were set alight and police and firemen made their grisly finds.

Three separate Swiss police departments Tuesday began a detailed examination of a gun which they hope will shed light on the continuing mystery of 53 doomsday occult-related deaths in Switzerland and Canada.

Ex-communists would back Bonn leftist government

BERLIN (R) — Germany's reform communist PDS party said Tuesday it would support a minority government of Social Democrats and Greens if they edged out Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition in Sunday's general election.

Gregor Gysi, leading candidate of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), told journalists he would support any reasonable bid to move German politics to the left.

"We will not hinder a shift from Kohl to Schöningh," he said, referring to opposition leader SPD leader Rudolf Schöningh.

Several recent opinion polls have put Mr. Kohl's centre-right coalition a few points short of an absolute majority, meaning the combined opposition could block a return to power.

But other surveys give Mr. Kohl an absolute majority. Mr. Schöningh insists he could not become chancellor he needed votes from the SPD — the shunned successor to East Germany's hard-line communist leaders — to

Mr. Gysi, who seems all but assured of returning to parliament from his left-wing constituency in East Berlin, declined to speculate on the outcome of Sunday's election.

Asked what he would do if he were the only one of the 17 current PDS deputies to return to the Bonn parliament, he answered: "I don't even want to think about that."

The PDS currently scores about four per cent in the opinion polls, not enough to clear the five per cent hurdle to claim seats in parliament. But it is hoping to win three East German constituencies outright, at which point an electoral law loophole would let up to 30 PDS candidates into the next legislature.

If the PDS fails to win the three crucial races in and around East Berlin, Mr. Gysi could end up as its only deputy.

Explaining why the PDS would support an SPD-Greens coalition, Mr. Gysi said a left-leaning alliance

ure from trade unions, tenants' associations, peace groups and other left-wing movements.

The party would put pressure on any "red-green" coalition to cut the defence budget, slim down state bureaucracy, maintain welfare spending levels and extend voting rights to foreigners, he said.

Meanwhile Mr. Kohl has warned his supporters the race is not won and urged them to turn out and vote.

Mr. Kohl told national ZDF Television Monday night that some 20 per cent of voters had still not made up their minds.

"We are fighting for every vote," he said. "Our supporters are motivated but there are a number who have the feeling it's all decided — which I don't like at all. Nothing is decided. That's my most important message this evening."

On Monday a poll by the Basisforschung group in Focus magazine put Mr. Kohl two seats short of an absolute majority in the next parliament.

is too close to call.

It gave Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), their Bavarian CSU sister party and the FDP a combined total of 47.5 per cent of the vote. The opposition Social Democrats (SPD), Greens and the PDS together totalled 48 per cent.

Such a result Sunday could lead to a "grand coalition" between the CDU/CSU and the SPD, a politically unattractive constellation which neither side really wants.

Mr. Kohl accused Mr. Schöningh of seeking such a coalition.

But Mr. Schöningh, in an interview with Tuesday's Tagesspiegel newspaper, dismissed the idea that such a prospect could be attractive to the SPD, out of power since 1982.

"As a rule a grand coalition means stagnation and encourages radical fringe parties and protest movements," he said.

Mr. Kohl said such protestations were as unbelievable as SPD denials that it was prepared to ally itself with the PDS if this would get

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

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The price of movement

IT IS TOO early to judge whether Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's latest politico-military manoeuvre was just another blunder by the regime in Baghdad or not.

But the ultimate yardstick by which to measure the new move's success or failure has to be whether the sanctions against Iraq are removed, eased or maintained as a result of moving troops close to the Kuwaiti border. There can be no argument that on the military level at least, president Hussein stands to lose a coveted chip, presumably free movement for his army's heavy armour in the South.

For one thing, there is no way that the military buildup by Washington and its allies will not be put to some use against Baghdad. When scores of naval units gather in the waters of the Gulf region and hundreds of military aircraft are deployed in the area, it stands to reason that the western powers would want to use them even if the Iraqi army is withdrawn from the border area with Kuwait.

For another, the allies would be inclined to demand new conditions from Iraq in order to avoid a repetition of last week's episode. There is no telling how far Washington would go to extract new terms and conditions from Baghdad as a price for not destroying the Iraqi Republican army.

As far as sanctions are concerned, it can be argued that the chances for lifting them even in part have effectively evaporated as a result of the manoeuvre. It can be said that no permanent member of the United Nations Security Council including France and Russia would be able now to defend the Iraqi case for relaxation of the sanctions. Baghdad had painstakingly cultivated considerable goodwill in the last few months if not years in favour of lifting the embargo imposed against it after having successfully changed its image as a country that accepted the dictates of the Security Council even though they were unjust for the most part. Turkey and other powers in the region have been spearheading the campaign to reintegrate Iraq into the Middle Eastern political framework and they were nearly successful. Now, this school of thought will argue, we are back to square one and Iraq has to begin once again the process of winning support and sympathy from the international community starting with Washington and London.

Whether this in fact will be the scenario is the one-million dollar question. But it is becoming clearer that a fresh attempt at solving the impasse over the sanctions needs to be undertaken. The West must show more reason and compassion in dealing with the sufferings of the Iraqi people, and draw a clear line between this and what the regime is doing.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WASHINGTON REACTED so promptly to the new developments in the Gulf not because Iraq moved its troops in military exercises near the Kuwaiti borders but simply to serve its own interests, said Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour. What is happening in the Gulf at present is merely a scenario in an American design aimed at perpetuating the embargo on Iraq as long as this country remains a threat to the interests of the U.S. and other Western or some Arab countries, he said. The writer said that Washington has resorted to raising this issue at world level because it wants to escape pressure exercised on it and U.N. Security Council by such nations as Turkey, Russia, China and France, which want to end or ease the sanctions on Iraq. He said the U.S. also wants to create trouble for Iraq at the international level to ensure the continuation of the sanctions. Further more, Washington chose to raise this question now because the Security Council is reviewing the sanctions in light of U.N. envoy's reports about Iraq's compliance with the U.N. resolutions, said the writer. He said that by inciting the world community against Iraq, Washington hopes to stop any attempts to end the embargo.

Commentary in Al Shaab criticised the way in which the Jordanian Ministry selects its staff to be members of the Jordanian diplomatic corps. Nazih Qousus said that it is true that the Foreign Ministry places some requirements like a written examination and an interview to ensure the ability of persons to become diplomats, but those who are normally selected to fill the posts are not chosen on merit but rather by way of personal contact and through influence from prominent personalities in the country.

M. KAHL



FOREIGN POLICY

East Europe's painful and long transition

By Jane Perlez

KONIN, Poland — As Jan Rusin, a 43-year-old coal miner, sits in his wood-paneled living room admiring the fruits of his labour under communism — a television set, comfortable furniture, a shiny, modern kitchen — he wonders why he is jobless and dependent on welfare payments. Capitalism, he says, was supposed to bring him more, not less.

A few miles away in the heart of this industrial town, Elzbieta Leszczynska, creates wedding dresses in the airy basement of her two-story home. Amid the swirl of brocades and laces, and the clip of scissors and sewing machines, Mrs. Leszczynska, one of Poland's new small entrepreneurs, runs a staff of 43 and sells glamorous gowns to boutiques around Poland. But, she, too, is not satisfied. Why can't she expand her business faster? she asks.

The stories are different, but the frustrating reality is the same: In Eastern Europe, capitalism cannot be built overnight. And when it comes, it comes at a price few here expected.

Working habits and egalitarian attitudes drilled into minds by 40 years of communism remain deeply embedded five years after its collapse, making it difficult for people to work through the painful first stage of a conversion to a market economy.

Nonetheless, signs of sudden consumption stand out in once-bleak landscapes. Foreign cars roar down the decrepit Warsaw-Berlin road. In Budapest, beauticians sell expensive skin creams to nouveau riche women with \$1,300 cellular telephones tucked in their pocketbooks. The highway outside Prague is

dotted with new rest stops that peddle snacks and ice cream along with gasoline, just like in the West.

These three countries of the former Warsaw Pact — Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic — have moved onto the fast track, economists say. More than half the people in these nations work in private business. Small manufacturers have emerged alongside cumbersome state factories. Scores of private banks have opened, and fledgling stock markets attract investors from home and abroad.

But many Poles, Czechs and Hungarians are worse off today than they were five years ago. Their societies have been divided into two classes: the envied few who, despite some rough going, have profited from the change, and a resentful majority upset at not being able to make it.

Economists now agree that it will take much longer than anticipated for these countries to catch up to the West. In countries where the memories of pre-World War II capitalism still linger, the belief that the end of communism would quickly transform Eastern Europe into Western Europe turned out to be false.

And in countries like Romania, Bulgaria, and Slovakia — the laggards in the economic reform process — real progress is hard to find. Foreign investment is scant, and inflation is high. So lethargic has been the advance of reform in Romania that analysts calculate that at the present pace it would take until 2035 before state industries enter private hands.

But even among Romania's more successful neighbours, the path to a market economy has been rough. "No one expected such declines of such magnitude," said Branko Milano-

vic, a senior economist at the World Bank's Transition Economics Division. "The first idea was that the economies would grow immediately because the systems were so inefficient."

Instead, it is now recognised, the economies all lacked sufficient private capital, modern equipment, and managerial know-how for a quick turn-around. In the Czech Republic, for example, the government has produced some impressive results: the lowest unemployment, the lowest inflation, and a balanced budget. But in Prague, capital is so scarce and competition for it so intense that aspiring businessmen say they have to bribe bank officers to get a loan.

The Vienna Institute for Comparative Economic Studies, where analysts study Eastern Europe, concluded in an assessment in July that it would be well into the next decade before the three fast-track countries could match the economic strength of even the less well-off countries in the European Union (EU), like Spain.

"The mechanisms of the command economy were dismantled everywhere with surprising speed," said Peter Havlik, the institute's deputy director. "On the other hand, the formation of new institutions has turned out to be much more difficult, slower, and more painful than most analysts had expected at the outset of reforms in 1990."

It was thought that in five years they would reach German levels. But this is complete nonsense. Realistically, there will be enormous differences between Eastern Europe and Western Europe for years to come."

As these countries removed state subsidies from industries and laid off bloated work forces, there have been severe social

costs: a drop in living standards, long-term unemployment, and the emergence of stark poverty.

Poland, where a "shock therapy" economic policy of removing subsidies and making the currency convertible was slammed into action in 1989, is the first country to show growth. Even so, by the end of this year, Poland will be producing only 90 per cent of its pre-1989 gross domestic product, according to the Vienna Institute.

In the Czech Republic, despite what many consider careful management, the economy will only start to grow again this year. In the last five years, the Czech economy has shrunk by 20 per cent, the institute says. And in Hungary, the five-year drop in gross domestic product is forecast at 18 per cent.

Everywhere real wages tumbled dramatically: In Poland, the buying power of wages has fallen by 28 per cent since 1989; by 18 per cent in the Czech Republic, and by 16 per cent in Hungary.

Societies accustomed to the notion that everyone should have equal economic standing are now riven by a sudden upsurge in poverty, a widening of the formerly narrow gulf between the poor and everyone else in what once had been an attempt at a classless society. About 15 per cent of Poles live below the poverty line compared with a steady 5 to 10 per cent in the 1980s, according to findings published in July by the World Bank.

Unemployment has emerged as a permanent legacy as private sectors fail to expand fast enough to take on workers laid off from state industries. In Poland, the unemployment rate stands at 15 per cent and could, according to some forecasts, rise to 20 per cent. Most troubling,

case workers say, about 40 per cent of unemployed have been looking for work for more than a year.

And in the Czech Republic, the very low 3.1 per cent unemployment rate is bound to increase when the inevitable removal of subsidies happen.

Beyond the economic realities, many people are overwhelmed by the mental adjustments that have to be made. Poland's former communist leader, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, who has recently made a surprising comeback in public opinion polls, said:

"The rising disparities between rich and poor are offensive in a society where everyone once lived equally. In the West, people respect success. Here, it arouses suspicion."

Adapting to different values after 40 years of communism — initiative instead of passivity, stress on merit instead of party loyalty — is proving a substantial constraint on economic development. A lack of laws that deal with such things as breach of contract adds to the problem.

"I have the feeling that the question of mentality is the real obstacle to change," said Rudolf Andorka, the rector of Budapest University.

American Airlines says it has taken 18 months to train the ground staff at Warsaw airport to Western levels of low absenteeism, no drinking on the job and service with a smile. A concept that was hard to get across, said Frank R. Van Zanden, an American Airlines manager, was the reason to be pleasant instead of surly to customers.

"We had to explain again and again that passengers weren't doing us a favour by flying," he said, "that the money passengers spent on tickets paid for staff salaries."

The New York Times

U.N. neutrality sorely tested in Bosnia

By Kurt Schork
Reuters

SARAJEVO — If neutrality means offending both parties to a conflict, the United Nations is doing a good job in Bosnia.

What might have been a week of unvarnished triumph for special envoy Yasushi Akashi and his field commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, ended instead in bitter recrimination as both parties to the 30-month Bosnian conflict charged the U.N. with bias.

In the space of a few days U.N. negotiators had persuaded Bosnian Serb leaders to turn the utilities back on in besieged Sarajevo, reopen the city's airport and permit directly needed aid convoys through their territory.

Capping those advances was the prisoner exchange, more than a year in the making, which finally took place on Thursday.

Against stiff odds, it seemed the U.N. had laid a solid foundation to keep aid flowing to Bosnian civilians through the winter and to prevent months of low-intensity conflict erupting again into all-out war.

Before Akashi could leave Sarajevo to savour his triumph, however, the harsh realities of Bosnia's bitter ethnic conflict overtook him.

Even as prisoners of war were being exchanged over Sarajevo's bridge of brotherhood and unity at dawn on Thursday, Muslim-led Bosnian government commanders were attacking a Serb command post west of the city.

Silencing the throats of four sentries, they killed another 12 Serb soldiers and four women nurses before withdrawing.

Relying on early U.N. reports from the scene, Mr. Akashi accused government troops of attacking through a U.N.-monitored demilitarised zone (DMZ) and mutilating their victims.

Bosnian Serbs, who had complained for weeks about government violations of the zone they surrendered to the U.N. last year on condition it be demilitarised, were outraged and blamed Mr. Akashi and Mr. Rose for the attack.

Already ostracised by the international community and reeling under a border blockade by Yugoslavia, Serb officials said they might now order the United Nations out of the 70 per cent of Bosnia they control and go it alone.

"This may influence us to decide to ask the U.N. to leave our country if it is unable to fulfil its agreements," Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told Reuters on Thursday.

Worried that Serbs might move to clear the DMZ if they did not, the U.N. pressed government leaders to pull their troops out of the zone. Government sources say Rose threatened NATO air strikers, if necessary, to remove them.

That threat and a U.N. admission, on Friday its mutilation charge had been incorrect left Bosnia's government steaming.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic demanded a public apology from Mr. Akashi, whom he accused of having slandered the Bosnian army with his atrocity allegation.

Mr. Izetbegovic also asked on what authority Mr. Rose was threatening to bomb a U.N. member nation fighting against an enemy named in numerous U.N. resolutions as the aggressor.

"As human beings we could ask them to be on our side for they are living and working in a town that has been under siege for over 30 months," the president complained.

"They have witnessed the truth that in this town more than 10,000 people have been killed... our parks have been turned into cemeteries."

Thailand moving towards democracy

By Tony Austin
Reuters

BANGKOK — From an unpromising start, when friends and foes alike rated his chances slim, Chuan Leekpai has embarked on his third year of office, with prospects of becoming Thailand's longest-serving civilian prime minister.

Mr. Chuan himself, in a written reply to questions by Reuters, played down the issue of how long he expected to stay in power, saying his job was to make democratically elected government acceptable to Thailand and to prove it could run the country effectively.

"What is important is that any future change should be within the rules of democracy and the constitution," the 54-year-old leader of the Democrat Party said.

Diplomats however agreed that Mr. Chuan, whose unassuming manner belies a tough and skilful politician, had already achieved much by not only staying in power but also consolidating his authority over an often fractious five-party coalition.

Since he took office on Sept. 23, 1992, Mr. Chuan's

government has weathered no-confidence motions in parliament and an embarrassing rebuff to its attempts to write more democracy into the constitution.

"They turned out mostly to be tempests in a teacup, but governments have fallen for less," one diplomat said.

Mr. Chuan himself once had to fend off public criticism for failing to marry the mother of his child, and a protester recently hurled a bag of excrement at one of his ministers.

But if he hangs on until next June, it will be a record: No Thai civilian prime minister has survived longer than two years, eight months, and so far no elected government has lasted the full four-year term.

"In 1992, I was an optimist. I gave him one year," said another diplomat, adding: "Chuan is now confidently going for the four years."

Mr. Chuan's democrats are senior partners in a five-party pro-democracy coalition formed after a September, 1992 parliamentary election that followed the bloody suppression of street demonstrations that May.

Soldiers had killed scores of pro-democracy protesters and wounded hundreds more for demanding the resignation of unelected prime minister and former army chief Suchinda Kraprayoon.

Though Mr. Suchinda resigned in disgrace and the troops slunk back to barracks, Mr. Chuan's prospects were rated poor in a country that had seen 17 successful or attempted military coups in the 60 years since it ended absolute monarchy.

"Two years later, there's been no heavy violence, the economy is strong and he has seen off a number of challenges," one diplomat said. "He has matured in the job and is obviously acceptable to the Thai people. His opponents cannot touch him."

Some of Mr. Chuan's worst critics are motorists stuck in the daily traffic jams of Bangkok, Thailand's polluted, vehicle-choked capital where serious work has not yet begun on any mass-transit system.

Others accuse his government of doing little or nothing to reform a constitution in force since the last

military coup in 1991, redistribute income out of the big cities, or tackle social problems like child prostitution.

Mr. Chuan replies: "This government has greatest emphasis on social justice, through decentralisation of prosperity and economic activity to rural areas..."

"We have begun to see results, though we cannot say we have achieved complete success. But I believe progress has been satisfactory, and we said from the start we could not solve these problems quickly."

One Western diplomat observed Thailand could have done more to help the elected government of neighbouring Cambodia in the two years, and appeared to have eased its criticism of human rights violations in Burma.

Another diplomat said: "Some people see the glass as half empty instead of half full. The gift of stability he (Chuan) has given the government should not be underestimated."

The senate, the upper house of parliament which is regarded as the political arm of the military, combined with Mr. Chuan's lower house opponents in March to defeat govern-

ment-backed plans for constitutional reform.

It was a measure of Mr. Chuan's political skill that despite suffering a technical setback, he emerged the moral victor and avoided alienating either his own supporters or arousing the misgivings of the powerful armed forces.

Again, financial markets took fright in May when politician Chalad Worachit went on hunger strike outside parliament to force the pace of constitutional change.

Mr. Chuan, who was among the targets of a vicious anti-communist witch-hunt in 1976, suffered the insults of pro-democracy extremists at a mass rally in support of Chalad.

"He does not panic. He faced down his opponents, and this (past) summer could turn out to be the watershed in his career as government leader," one diplomat said.

In the last two months, Mr. Chuan has hosted a high-profile meeting of the association of South East Asian nations (ASEAN), toured Japan, and taken personal charge of a long-running Thai scandal in which Thai police are accused of corruption.

Iraq says pullback is over

(Continued from page 1)

nised Kuwaiti sovereignty and freed hundreds of Kuwaitis detained during Iraq's occupation.

At present, Iraq is forbidden to fly fixed-wing military aircraft over areas of southern Iraq but Baghdad can carry out other military moves at will.

Appearing on CBS, the U.S. envoy to the U.N., Madeleine Albright, said it is imperative that steps be taken to ensure that Iraq "cannot continue to mess with us all the time." She did not elaborate.

The Iraqi News Agency said Tuesday that Iraq's elite Republican Guard had begun pulling back from the border Monday night and were heading to new positions north of Basra, Iraq's second-largest city.

Ms. Albright said the statements were indicative of Iraq's habit of saying one thing and doing something else. "This was the pattern in 1990," she said.

Monday night, President Clinton said he was doubling U.S. air power in the Gulf despite Iraq's promise to withdraw the troops. He declared sternly, "we're interested in facts, not promises."

Responding to Iraq's complaints about punishing U.N. sanctions, Mr. Clinton said Iraq knows what it must do to get its oil on the world market again: "Full compliance, not reckless provocation."

U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus was quoted as saying he feared Iraq had ruined its chances of obtaining a review of the sanctions.

Mr. Ekeus, the Swedish head of the U.N. Special Commission in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, told the Swedish daily Aftonbladet that the Iraqi troop movements to the Kuwaiti border were a tragedy for the suffering Iraqi people.

"This is very unfortunate, I had been convinced that sanctions would have been eased," said Mr. Ekeus, adding President Saddam readed meetings he had in Baghdad last week.

"Even the U.S. was prepared and the question (of easing sanctions) had moved on to another stage" before Iraq moved troops near the Kuwaiti border, the 59-year-old Swede said.

"This is a tragedy for the Iraqi people," he added. Mr. Ekeus said last week's meetings — when he was attacked personally by the Iraqi media — were tough.

"Saddam himself led the meeting. There was a very gloomy and depressing atmosphere... there was a very hard tone from Baghdad's side, threatening. It was as though they wanted to force us to make certain statements and I refused to accept," he told the Stockholm daily from New York.

"One doesn't treat a diplomatic envoy in this way. But it wasn't a personal vendetta. I believe rather that they were seeking a political goal," Mr. Ekeus added.

The Security Council will not review sanctions until mid-November and is not expected to seriously consider easing or lifting the embargo on oil exports until some time in 1995.

Baghdad had set an Oct. 10 deadline for action by the council on the sanctions because of a report from Mr. Ekeus.

Mr. Ekeus said he had started testing a crucial long-term monitoring programme, the last major project in the Iraqi disarmament programme.

But he did not give a time limit for the testing as Iraq had demanded, angering Iraq most of last week.

The completion of the weapons destruction programme is linked to lifting the embargo on Iraqi oil exports although the United States has said it would interpret the resolution broadly and look for other areas of compliance.

Russia dispatched two top envoys to the Gulf Tuesday in an effort to defuse the tensions there, and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev played down the threat of a renewed military clash on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

Mr. Kozyrev said there was "no reason" at present to fear a conflict in the area and stated that Moscow had received assurances from Baghdad that Iraqi troops there would confine their activities to "military manoeuvres," ITAR-TASS said.

The Russian foreign minister also held out the possibility of lifting international sanctions against Iraq in response to eventual "positive,

leadership," according to ITAR-TASS.

"We do not hide the unacceptability of any kind of new military actions against Kuwait by Iraq or our demands that all U.N. Security Council resolutions be fulfilled" by Iraq, Mr. Kozyrev said after talks with his Brazilian counterpart.

"At the same time, we do not hide our interest in the fact that, in response to positive, appropriate steps by the Iraqi leadership, sanctions against Baghdad could be lifted step by step and new possibilities for economic cooperation could open up," he added.

As an example of renewed economic cooperation, Mr. Kozyrev cited Iraq's repayment of several billion dollars in debt to Russia and said Moscow regarded the situation with a view to meeting its own economic interests.

He gave no further details.

Mr. Kozyrev said Moscow had been assured that Iraqi troops were being pulled back from positions near the border with Kuwait and called for discussion on the withdrawal at the Security Council, ITAR-TASS said.

Foreign ministry spokesman Grigori Karassin announced earlier that Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Viktor Possuvalyuk, President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy on the Mideast, were leaving Tuesday for Iraq and Kuwait.

The two Russian envoys sought "to achieve step-by-step progress in stabilising the situation in the region, including possible measures to soften the regime" of the sanctions on Iraq, Mr. Karassin said.

"Our representatives are bringing a specific programme approved by" President Yeltsin, Mr. Karassin said.

Meanwhile Iraq is providing electricity, water and sewage disposal for 3,000 anti-Kuwaiti protesters camping in tents erected last week near the Iraq-Kuwait border, U.N. observers said.

"The tent people have electricity, water, sewage disposal facilities and health support," Vesselin Kostov, a spokesman of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), said.

The Iraqi News Agency reported from Baghdad that rallies took place on Tuesday in the camp which Iraq calls the "League of the People with Rights."

Cabinet briefed on meetings

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Rawabdeh said the talks centred on means of organising banking activity and initiating commercial activity.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Information Minister Jawad Al Anani briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of the Joint Jordanian-American Palestinian economic talks held in Washington on Oct. 3.

He said the committee agreed on the terms of reference for a comprehensive plan to develop the Jordan Valley, including building of a Dead Sea-Red Sea canal, and for an integrated strategy aimed at increasing water resources in the region after reaching agreement on Jordanian and Israeli shares of water in the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers.

Jordan and the United States also agreed on issues related to increasing aid to Jordan and reducing Jordan's indebtedness, Dr. Anani said. He added that Jordan and the U.S. discussed a proposal on setting up a \$250 million fund to support investment projects in Jordan and followed up on the stages

reached to finalise a free trade agreement, giving Jordan special advantages to export its products to American markets.

Finance Minister Sami Gammoh, who headed a Jordanian delegation to talks with World Bank and IMF officials in Madrid, briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his talks.

He said the talks focussed on two major subjects: The establishment of an international bank for reconstruction in the Middle East and ways of supporting Jordan to increase its foreign currency assets and improve its capacity to support expenditure on development projects in Jordan.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan briefed the cabinet on Jordan's activity at the United Nations General Assembly session and outcome of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's meeting with U.N. Secretary General Boutros-Ghali and Pakistan's foreign minister. He also briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of his meetings with representatives of Arab and friendly countries.

He said the talks focussed on a withdrawal timetable and security arrangements on the Golan — two of the four obstacles to peace with Syria which Mr. Rabin outlined last month after offering a "marginal" withdrawal from the Golan.

Last month Mr. Assad said Syria was prepared to do what was necessary for peace, in a speech to parliament hailed in Israel as a "peace declaration."

His Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, in another gesture last week gave the first interview by a Syrian official to Israel Television.

Mr. Kozyrev's fifth mission since May came on the heels of a series of gestures by Israel and Syria over the past few weeks seen in the United States as indications they are both preparing for public opinions for

Residents of the camp called on Kuwaitis to back their demands to return to Kuwait and have their property and rights restored, the agency said.

They would continue "to confront the conspiracy of blockade and foil the intentions of the evil ones, who seek to undermine the steadfastness of the patient Iraqis," INA said.

"They also said they will mobilise all capabilities for the sake of proceeding towards inevitable victory and teach the enemies lessons in patience, steadfastness, and defiance under the leadership of the historic President Leader Saddam Hussein," the agency added.

But a UNIKOM spokesman said he had no information about a demonstration in the camp which is next to the demilitarised zone to the north of the border and is overlooked by UNIKOM watchposts.

Iraqi liaison officials have told UNIKOM the campers were peaceful former residents of Kuwait, Mr. Kostov told Reuters.

Kuwait officials, vowing to prevent their entry into the emirate, say they believe the 3,000 to be Iraqi troops and intelligence personnel sent by Baghdad to stir trouble.

The camp was first reported by UNIKOM on Saturday.

"According to Iraqi officials, there will be no demonstration inside the demilitarised zone," Mr. Kostov said.

"They receive food and water and medical support from Basra," he added.

Iraqi troops who have moved near Kurdish-held territory in the north pose no threat to Kurds in a U.N.-protected zone there, a Turkey-based Kurdish spokesman said.

"Until this moment, there has not been any spread of (Iraqi) soldiers that would create panic among the people," Safen Dizayee, spokesman for the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), told the Anatolian agency.

"But if there are any violations of the security zone... there will definitely be a huge migration inside northern Iraq and finally towards the Turkish border," said Anatolia's report on remarks he made on Monday night.

Kurdish sources on Sunday reported Iraqi troop movements toward areas held by Kurdish guerrillas northwest of the city of Mosul.

Monarchists seek to save scandal-tainted royals

By Richard Meares
Reuters

LONDON — Royalists hope Queen Elizabeth's historic trip to Russia, which threw out its own intransigent imperial dynasty in 1917, will give her a timely reminder that her monarchy survived by changing with the times.

As her family lurches from one scandal to the next, mostly involving the private lives of Prince Charles and his estranged wife Diana, even loyal British followers are saying radical steps to salvage its image are now overdue.

The latest savaging of the royal reputation, by a book claiming Diana slept with a young cavalry officer, has led devotees to join critics and demand that Prince Charles get speedy divorce, or even give up his right to the throne to save the dynasty.

The sugary prose of "Princess in Love" and its tawdry details of Princess Diana's supposed passionate encounters over five years with Major James Hewitt have nudged the house of Windsor one more step into the world of soap opera.

It has further eroded respect for a family which, under fire in the early 19th century, carved itself a role as the country's moral guardians and a happy, united symbol of the nation — an ideal proving impossible to live up to in the late 20th century.

"Royals made laughing stock," ran the frontpage headline in the Guardian newspaper after the Hewitt book was published.

There are few taboos left today and tabloid newspapers show scant reverence for the members of an institution which they fawned on only a couple of decades ago.

The sun, the cheekiest of them all, dressed Princess Diana as a Thai kick-boxer on its front page, hitting a Hewitt-faced rat.

The queen, now 68, called 1992 her year of horrors — when the marriages of two of her sons failed, her daughter Anne divorced, fire swept through Windsor Castle and discontent grew about the cost of the royal family.

But things have since gone from bad to worse, with Prince Charles and Princess Diana accused of waging a bitter media feud, the Prince admitting adultery on prime-time television and his wife seen as top suspect in a phone-pest scandal.

With more books promising more humiliations soon, some royal watchers



A PRINCESS IN TROUBLE: Princess Diana finds herself in the middle of yet another scandal

say the strategists at Buckingham Palace will have to rethink the monarchy's role, toning down its grandeur to save it from vanishing like imperial Russia's Romanovs.

Polls conducted in the wake of the book's publication show Britons, for decades among the most loyal subjects in the world, may be getting fed up with the whole institution.

The Daily Mirror asked some 8,000 people: "Do you think the Queen should be the final monarch?" Seventy-three per cent said yes. But results are notoriously unreliable and in a rival poll 70 per cent said Britain would be worse off without the royal family.

Equally worrying for the palace, keen to safeguard Prince Charles' position as heir to the throne than to help his "outcast" wife, is

that all polls show sympathy for Princess Diana.

Most people blamed Prince Charles for the marriage break-up and considered Princess Diana's alleged affairs as justifiable since he had confessed to cheating on his wife with a married woman.

Prince Charles says he was only unfaithful once his marriage hit the rocks, but tabloid newspapers most Britons read accuse him of sleeping with Camilla Parker-Bowles before and after he married Diana 13 years ago.

In a Sun poll, 65 per cent of people still wanted Princess Diana to be queen — but only half as many wanted Prince Charles as king.

While many Britons profess to care less about royal infidelities than about the tax spent on keeping them in their glamorous lifestyle,

the Hewitt affair shows signs of becoming the crisis which would galvanise the monarchy into change.

Public figures close to the royal family, who in recent years, have blamed the media for the monarchy's woes and insisted press curb would end the troubles, now concede the royal family must put its own house in order too.

Princess Charles and Princess Diana must divorce as soon as possible, they say, and serious thought should be given to skipping a generation and putting their son Prince William, now 12, on the throne when the Queen eventually dies.

"The present temporary separation arrangement is not proving satisfactory," said Lord St. John Fawcley, who is close to royal circles and previously rejected calls for divorce.

In December, two years after their official separation, the couple can legally divorce by mutual consent.

Prince Charles, however, said in June it was not something he was thinking about, and Princess Diana is said to fear it would cut her off from the sons she loves, and from the public life from which she seems to gain sustenance.

The palace may hope next week's royal trip to Russia, where the Queen will meet leaders of a country which executed her royal relatives 76 years ago, will deflect attention from her troubles at home.

But the next royal book, reportedly full of gossip about the men Princess Diana has recently turned to for comfort, is due out on Nov. 8, just two weeks after the Queen gets home.

The next storm may not be far away.

Jordan will react seriously

(Continued from page 1)

efforts," Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Christopher said that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "must never again be allowed to disturb the peace as he has in the past," adding that thanks in large part to King Hussein's courage and leadership, the Middle East is a far different place now from what it was four years ago.

The King stressed that if Iraqi actions raise the possibility of Arabs fighting Arabs again, "and if Iraq is moving in that direction it will not be able to persuade any one that it is moving in any thing except to further the suffering of the people in this region."

"We will be against Iraq if it did so clearly and very, very openly," King Hussein said.

Mr. Christopher said: "The King and I are in full agreement that the Iraqis must not be allowed to undermine regional stability and security. Threats and aggression, we have agreed, have no place here in the Middle East."

Describing as vestige of the past "Iraq's military provocations that have threatened

(Iraq's) Arab neighbours," Mr. Christopher said: "In truth the person who has brought misery and suffering to the people of his country is Saddam Hussein."

He cited as proof of that President Saddam's refusal to take advantage of a U.N. offer that would allow Iraq the sale of \$1.6 billion of oil to purchase food and medicine for the Iraqi people.

Responding to a question on the perception among people in the Arab World that it is the sanctions and not President Saddam which is causing the suffering of the Iraqi people, King Hussein said he did not think the sanctions would have been there "had it not been for the action that brought that about."

The King stressed that something had to be done to redress the situation in Iraq which is a country and a people that are historically a major part of the region.

Responding to a question on whether he agreed fully with the United States that the sanctions on Iraq should not be eased, King Hussein said he had great hopes before the rise of the latest tension that "things might be underway towards... a satisfactory resolution, particularly with Iraq adhering, if it did so, to U.N. resolutions."

That PNA position developed after Jordan severed all its links with Awqaf and Islamic shrines in the West Bank except those in Jerusalem late last month. The PNA has said it had taken charge of the religious affairs of the West Bank since then.

Jordan, PNA reach accords

(Continued from page 1)

between Amman and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership after Israel acknowledged the Kingdom's historic role vis-a-vis the shrines.

Palestinian delegates attending this week's talks in Amman have said that the PLO-led Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho did not intend to

factory resolution, particularly with Iraq adhering, if it did so, to U.N. resolutions."

That is why "I am very sad and very puzzled by this move that is totally irresponsible and which might have cast doubt on the credibility of the whole situation once again in a manner reminiscent of what happened several years ago."

The King noted that the Kingdom stood by Iraq during its 1980-88 war with Iran because of the threat posed to the region and did its best to resolve peacefully the conflict that developed after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which Jordan neither supported nor was aware that it was to happen.

"Now to go back into the same situation again with all that has happened to the people of Iraq... this is something unbelievable and we are very concerned and very worried for the people but we cannot identify... with these policies that are bringing about these threats and these disasters to the region," the King said.

Describing President Saddam as master of miscalculation, Mr. Christopher, who leaves for Kuwait early Wednesday, said the recent actions of Iraq undermine any effort to lift or diminish the sanctions.

"Indeed, these actions that he (President Saddam) has taken are the best proof that the sanctions should remain in full force... until they are complied with," said Mr. Christopher, who rejected suggestions that China, Russia and France had advocated an easing of the embargo that has been clamped on Iraq since the Gulf war.

Addressing the peace process, King Hussein said while

there were still areas to be addressed in the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks, progress was being made and "things are moving."

He said Jordan and Israel had identified problems that remained unsolved and need to be addressed and "I think we are covering ground and addressing them very quickly."

Saying that the peace talks are not an equation where one party will lose and the other will gain but both will gain, the King said, "it is our hope that by the end of the day we will be able to present" to the people and their institutions a solution that is acceptable and addresses the question of rights in terms of territory, water and other items on the agenda of the peace talks.

Responding to a question on whether Jordan will sign a peace treaty with Israel before January and before Syria does so, King Hussein said: "Whenever we have completed all our negotiations, resolved our own problems we will sign a peace treaty. It will be the crowning of this process in which we are engaged."

King Hussein would not specify a date on which the agreement would be signed but said the Kingdom was doing its best to resolve the outstanding problems with Israel as soon as possible and a peace treaty would be signed "as soon as we finish."

Mr. Christopher said that based on conversations he had with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein, "I believe that Jordan and Israel will be able to conclude a peace treaty in the very near future," adding that that peace would benefit the peoples of the two countries and would present good news to the whole world.

Addressing the Syrian-Israeli track of peace talks, Mr. Christopher said he believed both Syria and Israel were serious in their endeavours to reach peace though there was still a gap between them.

He said the talks were moving in the right direction and both parties were hopeful that a comprehensive peace could be achieved.

King Hussein earlier held a closed meeting with Mr. Christopher that was followed by an enlarged meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other senior officials from both countries.

The meeting discussed the peace talks and the recent development in the Gulf region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

Mr. Christopher was also received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who discussed with him the peace process and the situation in the Gulf.

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Rabin suspends self-rule talks

(Continued from page 1)

"You are fully responsible for the soldier's life and for what happens inside the autonomous area," Mr. Rabin told Mr. Arafat by telephone.

"Any delay in releasing him will have serious repercussions for the future of the

peace process between Israel and the PLO, the implementation of accords signed by us and our relations."

Palestinian sources said later Mr. Arafat telephoned the soldier's family and assured the relatives that he would do all he could to ensure he was returned safe

Nobel economic prize awarded for games theory pioneers

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The Nobel economics prize was awarded Tuesday to two Americans and a German, all pioneers in the development of game theory which applies the principles of games like chess or poker to complex economic problems.

The joint award, to Americans John Harsanyi and John Nash, and German Reinhard Selten, continued the U.S. domination of the economics prize, but marked the first ever German Nobel economics winner.

The laureates will share the seven-million Swedish krona prize money (about \$950,000) among them. The award was judged by a jury of five economics professors from the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences.

The Royal Academy praised specifically their "pioneering analysis of equilibria in the theory of

non-cooperative games" — a branch of game theory which has greatly influenced economic research for half a century.

The theory can be applied to all kinds of complex economic problems, for example the study of restrictive practices within a market or a government's tax policies.

Dr. Nash, of Princeton University, New Jersey, first introduced the distinction between cooperative games, in which binding agreements can be made, and non-cooperative games, where binding agreements are not feasible.

Dr. Nash developed an equilibrium concept for non-cooperative games that was later called the Nash Equilibrium.

Dr. Selten, of the Rheinisch-Friedrich-Wilhelms University in Bonn, refined the Nash Equilibrium concept

while Dr. Harsanyi, of the University of California, Berkeley, showed how games of incomplete information can be analysed.

The Nobel economics prize has been dominated by U.S. candidates over the last decade. Americans have won the prize in seven out of the last 10 years. Last year the award went to two U.S. historians for research on economic history.

The economics prize, established in 1969, is the most recent of the Nobel awards. Since then 23 Americans have won it, against six Britons, two Swedes, two Norwegians, and one each from France, the Netherlands and the Soviet Union.

Dr. Selten was the first German national to become a Nobel economics laureate. He was born in 1930 in Breslau, Germany, and has taught at the Rheinisch-Friedrich-

Wilhelms University, since 1984.

Dr. Harsanyi was born in Budapest in 1920, but has been a professor at Berkeley since 1964. Dr. Nash, born in Virginia in 1928, studied mathematics at Princeton from the age of 20 before becoming an academic there.

Dr. Harsanyi's work opened up a theoretical foundation for a new field of research, the economics of information, which focuses on strategic situations where different agents do not know each others' objectives.

Games theory was developed from the studies of such games as chess and poker, in which a player has to think ahead and devise a strategy based on the potential moves of other players. The same approach can be applied to many economic situations, research has shown.

Rouble nosedives 21.5 per cent, crashes to 3,926 to the dollar

MOSCOW (R) — The rouble suffered its biggest ever one-day fall Tuesday by nosediving 21.5 per cent to the dollar and bankers and economists said it would hamper Russian efforts to stabilise the economy and win confidence in reforms.

The central bank intervened only at the last moment as the Russian currency crashed to 3,926 to the dollar on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEX) from Monday's 3,081.

Bankers said the battered rouble was sliding towards 4,400 to the dollar on the interbank market.

"We came down to earth with a bump," said ING bank chief dealer Robert Elensky. "The pace of the fall is unbelievable."

"It is a situation of total crisis. The central bank could not stand by any longer and sold some money," said Rossiskiy Kredit dealer Pavel Paryako.

The rouble has fallen by a whopping 32.9 per cent against the dollar so far this month. Last month it fell 20 per cent, far outpacing September monthly inflation of 7.7 per cent.

Bankers said the central bank was now letting the rouble find a new level after keeping it overvalued for much of this year as well as 1993, when the Russian currency appreciated massively in real terms against the dollar.

"The continuing fall shows

this is a deliberate central bank policy," said ING's Elensky. "The central bank held the rouble artificially high for much of this year, but no one was expecting such a fast slide."

One Western economist added: "I'd draw no conclusion on the rouble this week. We're in extraordinary territory."

Senior banking sources said the central bank was confident the currency would bounce back soon.

They expected the bank to start selling dollars on the market in the next few days in a deflationary attack on the rouble. The central bank declined comment.

"The central bank thinks it can turn the tide," said one banker. "All these banks have been borrowing at higher and higher rouble interest rates to buy dollars. If the central bank sells a big volume of dollars, it may well succeed."

Banks were already short of roubles to buy more dollars. Cash dried up on the rouble interbank market where overnight rates soared to 200-250 per cent from Monday's 140-150 per cent.

Some bankers expected the fall to peter out soon.

"A complete collapse is very unlikely," said one.

Rumours the central bank might shut down MICEX flooded the market. The chief dealer of a big bank said: "Everybody is waiting for any information from the central bank, but dealers fear

certain restrictions, such as closing MICEX for a few days, cutting banks' positions or introducing a fixed rate."

If the central bank managed to stop the rouble falling permanently below 3,800 it could bring the market back under control until the end of the year, he said. "But if it really breaks through 3,800 the next support level is 5,000."

A weaker rouble boosts the central bank's hard currency reserves and makes it less costly for the bank to make payments to the government by converting foreign exchange.

The crash is certain to shake business confidence inside and outside Russia, economists and bankers said.

"This is going to give a good shake to people's confidence," said a Western diplomat. "This is a real slide. It's

an attack on reforms and it is going to cause instability."

The big fall in the rouble will make it hard for the government to sell treasury bills to finance its budget deficit, which jumped to 17 per cent of gross domestic product in July from 10 per cent in June.

It will have an inflationary effect, in a country where the state-run economy has shrunk and consumer goods imports have soared. But eventually, a weaker rouble will discourage imports and support exports, economists said.

A weaker rouble may cut deep into revenues of Russia's foreign portfolio investors, although some economists suggested the impact may be just the opposite. "Investment capital can now buy more shares than before," said one economist.

Malaysia to woo Islamic funds through interest-free banking

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia could expect a greater inflow of international Islamic funds through the development of its interest-free Islamic banking services, officials said Tuesday.

"The major benefit of Islamic banking is that it attracts international Islamic funds which must earn a return without usury," said Mirzan Mahathir, executive chairman of the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI), the organiser of a national seminar on Islamic banking.

Increasing stability in the Middle East would throw up opportunities for the mobilisation of Islamic funds, said Mr. Mirzan, a son of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Middle East retail investors were ripe for investing in Malaysia, said Saad Al Haran, professor of economics and management at the International Islamic University here.

These investors, for va-

rious unspecified reasons, were no longer interested in putting their money in the West and were looking east for investment opportunities, Mr. Saad said.

The Muslim banking practice of sharing profits with depositors in lieu of interest, pioneered by the Bank Islam in 1983, has caught on with 25 other commercial banks, finance companies and merchant banks starting the practice alongside conventional banking.

Total deposits in Malaysia's Islamic banking system were estimated at four billion ringgit (\$1.6 billion), said Defence Minister Najib Razak, who is also ASLI chairman.

The system has attracted the interest of other Muslim countries as well as countries with sizeable Muslim populations, he said.

The United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan and Morocco were already studying Malaysia's Islamic banking system.

Philippines plans powerful response to economy's needs

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippines hopes to generate 30,000 megawatts (M.W.) of additional power by 2010 to meet demands of its expanding economy, Energy Secretary Francisco Viray has said.

Mr. Viray said this would require capital investment of 1,803 trillion pesos (\$69.34 billion), 82 per cent of which is expected to come from private investors, with the government providing the rest.

He said total energy demand — equivalent to 131.1 million barrels of fuel oil in 1993 — is expected to grow by 8.1 per cent annually from 1994 to 2010.

The rise is largely driven by a projected 11.2 per cent yearly growth in electricity demand on the back of projected economic growth of an average 7.4 per cent a year during that period.

To meet demand, Mr. Viray said Manila plans to provide an extra 30,000 M.W. during that period to add to the 4,000 M.W.

already available.

Several foreign firms have already won contracts to build power plants with a total generating capacity of 4,787 from 1994 to 1999.

Contracts for facilities to provide more than 24,000 M.W. of power as well as grid interconnections from 2000 to 2010 have yet to be tendered.

Supply from these facilities would include 3,000 M.W. from a major gas find in the southwestern Philippines, 15,000 M.W. from coal-fired plants, 2,500 M.W. from hydro-electric dams, 3,600 M.W. from gas turbines and "marginal additions" from geothermal sources.

However, Mr. Viray warned that if additional sources of energy such as new geothermal fields are not found, the country's projection that it will reach a 33 per cent energy self-sufficiency by 2000 could decline to only 25 per cent by 2010 as demand would outstrip supply.

South Africa, EU sign milestone partnership deal

PRETORIA (R) — South Africa and the European Union (EU) have signed a milestone accord to boost aid, trade and other post-apartheid ties.

"It will enable the EU to open specific budget lines and to develop general and specific cooperation programmes," South Africa's Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said in a statement.

"It will simultaneously ensure that respect for human rights and the promotion of democracy remain at the forefront of EU/South African relations," he said.

South African and EU officials toasted their new future with champagne following the signing of the pact by Mr. Mbeki and EU commissioner for external economic rela-

tions Leon Brittan.

Mr. Brittan, speaking at the end of a four-day visit, said the pact would unlock certain short-term gains for South Africa.

"This agreement is itself only the first step. We then have to think, on both sides, exactly what form the new cooperation agreement will take," he told reporters.

The 12-nation EU is South Africa's largest trade partner and biggest foreign investor, although ties were strained by years of anti-apartheid sanctions prior to South Africa's first all-race elections in April.

The union buys 40 per cent of South Africa's exports and supplies 33 per cent of what it imports, in two-day annual trade worth 63 billion rand.

Russia grants Armenia \$35.7 million in aid

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Russia has pledged 110 billion roubles (\$35.7 million) in aid credits to Armenia, over half of which will be used for reactivating a nuclear power plant, Russian news agencies reported Monday.

Vladimir Shumeiko, speaker of the upper house of Russia's parliament, announced the aid offer during an official visit to the

former Soviet republic Monday.

At least 60 billion roubles (\$19.5 million) of the aid package will go to an atomic energy plant, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

Mr. Shumeiko said Armenia needs the station to combat "the acute shortage of electricity" which has hampered Armenia's industrial and economic development in recent months.

Falling output, soaring prices and an economic blockade imposed by neighbouring Azerbaijan have pushed Armenia's living standards to among the lowest of all former Soviet republics since its independence in 1991.

Leading opposition parties in Armenia, blaming President Levon Ter-Petrosian for the economic collapse, formed a political alliance on

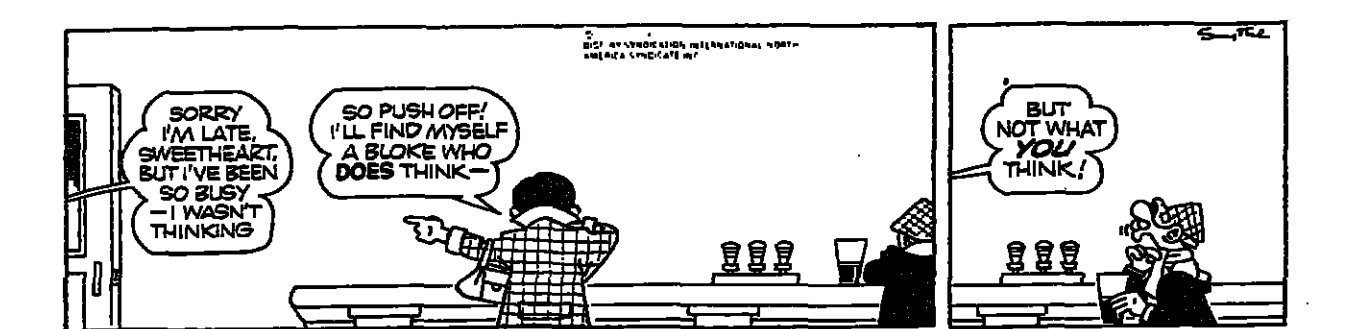
Oct. 5 to call for the government's resignation and for early parliamentary and presidential elections.

During Mr. Shumeiko's visit to Armenia, his delegation will also address the unrest in Nagorno-Karabakh and the role of the Commonwealth of Independent States in settling the conflict, the Interfax News Agency reported.

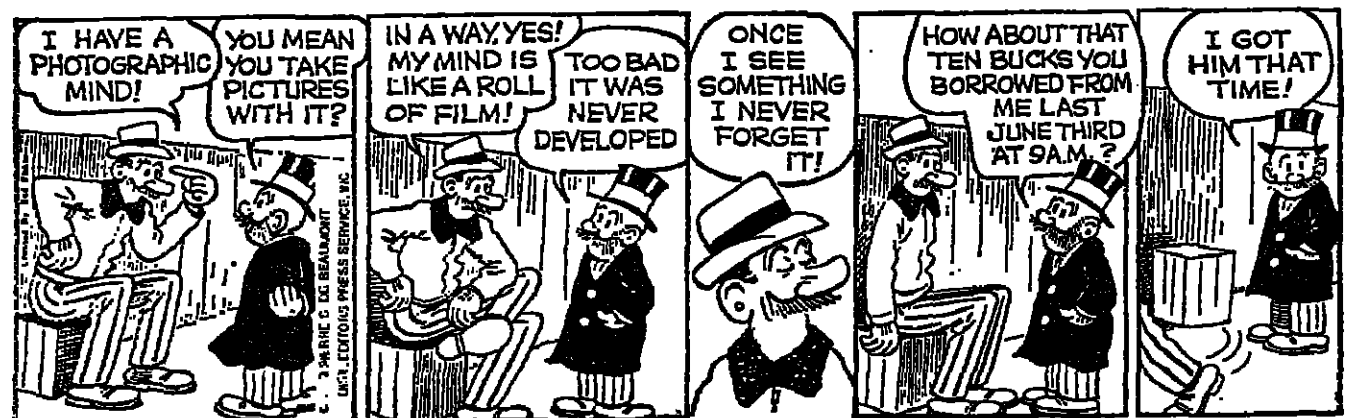
Peanuts



Andy Capp



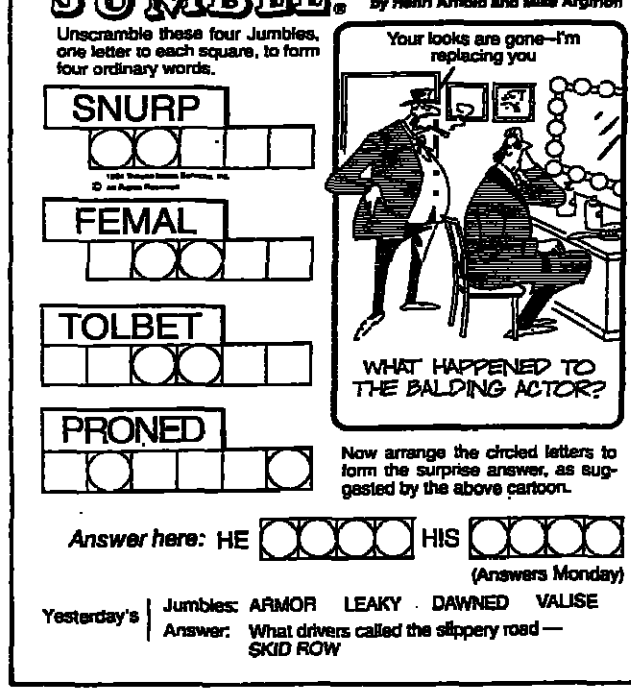
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Principles of style

DAJANI'S
Gold & Gems Jewellers.
Amra Hotel, 6th Circle, Amman.
PYRITE: A grounding stone. Also known and used as a money magnet.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you don't push matters and go along with whatever occurs you may find that it will lead to a pleasant surprise. Not a good time to borrow or lend any items. Be especially patient with your mate.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early go after what you most desire and later be cautious in going after any further aims. Show your intelligence on the completion of an idea.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make a fine impression on a bigwig and then sit back and watch the good results. Arrive on time for important appointments with experts.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you go after your personal wishes in a sure manner, they can soon be yours. Take care later not to get discouraged on a suggestion.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Show a higher-up that you are most capable, but don't be forceful in trying to gain your way towards a new endeavour.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have fine ideas for extending interests but making changes now could prove detrimental. Stick to mature judgement.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Early handle practical dealings with others and get good results. The afternoon is fraught with tensions. So don't plan very much.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is an ideal morning for putting your financial and practical affairs in order. Tonight, do not argue with your mate. Just relax and rest.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Find a better way of pleasing an associate, but later don't have doubts about an agreement made. Study every angle of outside interests.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Everything should go smoothly at work in the morning. Later, problems arise which require patience and the ability for logical thinking.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan how to have greater happiness on the days ahead and then perform some special talent you have to make everything more prosperous.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A different attitude is necessary when dealing with a family tie. You are able to handle tense matters which arise in an efficient manner.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get in touch with friends and discuss your mutual aims. Come to a fine understanding with them. Use care driving on the highway.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

1 History

5 "I'm happy"

9 Author

14 "Sacred river"

15 "Shaker's milieu"

16 (usually)

17 Bubbly drink

18 Unconquerable

20 Old style

21 Alphabet run

22 Pivotal point

23 Logic

24 List of

25 Candidates

27 Finished

28 Comp. pt.

29 Positive

30 Perplexed

31 Spriggle

32 Well lucky

33 Cove

34 Song of praise

35 Timetable abbr.

36 Playthings

37 Short haircut

38 Mountain lake

39 Bodies of terrain

40 Scorchers

41 Succession of

42 "Fall behind"

43 Suite to

44 Security

45 Culture

46 Indigo plant

47 Paper quantities

48 Fabric liner

49 Noncore

50 Old English

51 Colloid

52 Esau's

53 Neighbored

54 Nevada city

55 Taste

56 French river

57 Antler

58 Sunbeamed again

59 Vanda

60 Roman bronze

61 Gobbie

62 Kind of pear

63 Galle

64 Archaic base

65 French river

66 Antler

67 Grown

68 Newcomer

69 Koppel

70 Most support

71 Galle

72 Archaic base

73 French river

74 Antler

75 Grown

76 Newcomer

77 Koppel

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	10/10/94	Tokyo Close	11/10/94
Sterling Pound	1.5853	1.5840		
Deutsche Mark	1.5448	1.5451		
Swiss Franc	1.2829	1.2837		
French Franc	5.2330	5.2765**		
Japanese Yen	100.38	100.60		
European Currency Unit	1.2375	1.2363**		

* 100 Per Cent
** Europe Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates Date: 11/10/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.93	5.37	5.62	5.87
Sterling Pound	5.25	5.68	6.18	6.75
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.00	5.12	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.62	3.93	4.12	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.83	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.12	2.25	2.56
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.94	6.15	6.81

Interbank bid rates for immediate delivery U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 11/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7080
Sterling Pound	1.1047	1.1102
Deutsche Mark	0.4511	0.4534
Swiss Franc	0.5479	0.5456
French Franc	0.1320	0.1327
Japanese Yen	0.6931	0.6966
Dutch Guilder	0.4029	0.4049
Swedish Krona	0.0444	0.0446
Italian Lira	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc	0.0444	0.0446

Other Currencies Date: 11/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.3350	1.3550
Lebanese Lira	0.041115	0.042555
Saudi Riyal	0.1830	0.1875
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3500
Qatari Riyal	0.1904	0.1925
Emirati Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7950	1.8180
UAE Dirham	0.1893	0.1904
Greek Drachma	0.2745	0.3215
Cypriot Pound	1.4000	1.5050

Branson's Virgin launches rival to Coke, Pepsi

LONDON (R) — British tycoon Richard Branson's Virgin Group is launching its own brand Virgin Cola, taking on U.S.-owned market leaders Coca Cola and Pepsi in the battle to quench the world's thirst.

The self-made multi-millionaire is teaming up with Canada's Cott Corp., which has already bruised the soft drink giants on their home turf, and says the project is his biggest challenge yet in a 25-year career spanning records, retail and air travel.

"If all goes according to plan, I would expect that Virgin Cola Company will be as big as Virgin Atlantic Airlines within about four years," Mr. Branson told British Television News late Monday.

"Consumers of soft drinks around the world have been forced to pay inflated prices

for brand names like Coke and Pepsi. We want to tackle the market with a unique cola which we think will be a winner under the Virgin brand name," Mr. Branson said.

In a front page splash, Tuesday's edition of Britain's Sun tabloid said the new brand will go on sale first in Britain and the United States, followed by Japan and the rest of the world.

It will be produced at Cott's Pontefract factory in Britain and aims for sales of at least £1 billion (\$1.6 billion) within five years.

The new cola, which Mr. Branson says will be in the shops by the end of the month, will undercut Coke and Pepsi by up to 15 per cent. It comes in a red and white can with Virgin's distinctive logo and is also available in weight-watching diet

New refineries to slash Arab Gulf sugar imports

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are setting up two sugar refineries that could slash their imports of the product by more than 50 per cent and enable them to penetrate the vast markets of neighbouring Iran and Iraq, industry sources in the region have said.

The refineries in the Saudi Red Sea port of Jeddah and Dubai's Jebel Ali free trade zone will have a combined output capacity of around 1.25 million tonnes per year, much higher than the total consumption in the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, the sources said.

Dubai's refinery will produce 750,000 tonnes when it is commissioned on Nov. 17 while the Jeddah project will have a capacity of nearly 500,000 tonnes per year and will be completed in mid-1996.

The Dubai project is owned by Al Ghurair Group, a well-known business family in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), while that in Jeddah is a joint venture between the Saudi cooking oil giant Savola, the British Tate and Lyle PLC and several Saudi sugar traders.

Owners of the Saudi refinery estimated its cost at around \$119 million while no figures have been disclosed

for the Dubai project. But industry sources put costs at more than \$150 million.

"The two projects are so big that they will suffice the whole market and push into the Iranian and Iraqi markets," said an industry source, close to the projects. "They will also cut Gulf sugar imports by more than 50 per cent."

Around 90 per cent of the GCC's sugar imports come from Europe while cane from existing refineries come mainly from South East Asia and Latin America.

Consumption in the GCC is among the highest in the world, exceeding 25 kilograms per person. Total consumption was estimated at 800,000 tonnes in 1993 of the total demand of 2.6 million tonnes in the GCC, Iran and Iraq.

The UAE is the biggest sugar importer in the GCC, which also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar. Its imports

stood at around 290,000 tonnes in 1993 while Saudi imports did not exceed 30,000 tonnes although its population is as much as seven times that of the UAE.

Industry sources attributed this to domestic production in Saudi Arabia and the fact that a large part of the UAE's imports is reexported.

They expected competition between the two new refineries but said the market was large enough to accommodate both. They cited the high sugar consumption in other Arab countries, most of which depend wholly on imports.

Official figures showed Algeria has remained the biggest Arab sugar importer, buying more than one million tonnes per year. This accounts for nearly a quarter of the total Arab sugar imports.

Dubai, the main Gulf commercial centre, already exports sugar to Iran but such exports have remained a fraction of the total Iranian sugar imports of more than 700,000 tonnes per year. Iraq's sugar imports were estimated at 500,000 tonnes per year before its 1990 invasion of neighbouring Kuwait.

Another possible target of the two refineries is Yemen, a major regional sugar importer, with purchases of around 350,000 tonnes per year.

"Our production will cater for the local market and other markets," director of the Jeddah project, Mohammad Kashkari, said in recent local press comments. "So, we expect a sharp decline in sugar imports by the Kingdom and other countries in the region."

Gaza to get first oil refinery

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The privately-owned Palestinian Fuels Company has announced plans to build an oil refinery in the Gaza Strip at the start of 1995. Company chairman Kenneth Hatfield said the refinery would handle only light oil with a start-up capacity of 20,000 barrels of crude a day. A proposal would soon be submitted to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and include employment for 500 people, Mr. Hatfield said in a statement. Financial support was expected from the U.S. government as part of Vice-President Al Gore's "Builders for Peace" programme.

South Korea predicts another boom year for its electronics industry

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's electronic industry boom will survive cut-throat competition from Japan and continue through 1995, led by thriving sales in chips, a business think-tank has predicted.

"Helped by a revitalised global economy, South Korean electronics manufacturers will be buoyant in the coming year," said Park Pal-Hyun, an economic analyst at the LUKY-Goldstar (L.G.) Economic Institute.

Mr. Park's forecast was based on a resilient domestic economy as well as the price-quality competitiveness of South Korean products.

He said the edge was such that it should continue even if the boost to South Korean exporters of the appreciation of the Japanese yen, did not continue through 1995.

Seo Jang-Won, a researcher at the semiconductor division of the L.G. institute predicted: "The upturn in semiconductor exports and domestic sales will last at least two years."

South Korea's semiconductor industry, which has enjoyed an unprecedented boom in the past two years, was expected to be bolstered next year by steady windfall orders for four-megabyte dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips, whose prices are on the upswing, Mr. Seo said.

In the first half of the year, South Korean semiconductor makers racked up a handsome 65 per cent increase in terms of production value — \$3.75 billion over the same period last year, the institute said.

But the growth pace would slow down to about 45 per cent in the second half from last year, because supplies would taper off, it said, and because the four megabyte DRAM, South Korea's major export, slowly would be replaced by higher capacity versions.

The institute forecast next year's growth rate in the value of semiconductor output at 30 per cent, reaching \$10.63 billion, compared with a projected \$8.13 billion for the whole of 1994. If the 1994 projection is fulfilled it would represent a rise of 54 per cent over 1993.

"Next year's (anticipated) growth rate looks rather stagnant compared to this year, but a 30 per cent surge would still be outstanding," Mr. Seo told AFP.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3423/33	Canadian dollar
	1.5445/55	Deutsche marks
	1.7500/10	Dutch guilders
	1.2838/48	Swiss francs
	31.78/82	Belgian francs
	5.2780/30	French francs
	157.65/1	Italian lire
	100.45/55	Japanese yen
	7.4050/50	Swedish crowns
	6.7240/90	Norwegian crowns
	6.0475/25	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5842/52	
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MORNING SESSION

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADE VOLUME	PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	17,580	183.000	183.000	183.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	61,630	2.870	2.870	2.870
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	19,750	3.950	3.950	3.950
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	6,430	1.900	1.900	1.900
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	1,348	2.970	2.970	2.970
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	12,185	2.300	2.300	2.300
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	618	2.900	2.900	2.900
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	25,748	1.700	1.700	1.700
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	73,801	3.430	3.430	3.430
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	12,774	2.810	2.810	2.810
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	4,873	1.880	1.880	1.880
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	2,600	1.850	1.850	1.850
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	5,115	2.970	2.970	2.970
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	1,850	1.850	1.850	1.850
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	13,625	2.580	2.580	2.580
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	1,050	1.850	1.850	1.850
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	1,508	1.710	1.710	1.710
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	2,078	1.180	1.180	1.180
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	1,025	11.750	11.750	11.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	16,186	2.540	2.540	2.540
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	11,017	1.740	1.740	1.740
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	2,453	1.710	1.710	1.710
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	4,128	1.330	1.330	1.330
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	121,708	2.790	2.820	2.820
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ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	13,121	2.830	2.870	2.870
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	17,630	4.270	4.400	4.400
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Qatari claims Asia's fastest human title

ASIAN GAMES

HIROSHIMA (AP) — Qatar's Tala Mansoor defended his title as Asia's fastest human and a 14-year-old Malaysian won a yachting gold medal Tuesday as China's gold-medal pace slowed somewhat.

While the Chinese were expected to win the major share of women's track and field events, Syria Ghada Sheaa claimed the title of best all-around athlete by winning the seven-event heptathlon.

China took only one of the day's four women's track events, and one of the three men's.

In another test of all-round skills, South Korea's Kim Myung-Gun won the modern pentathlon, which combines competition in fencing, running, swimming, shooting and riding.

Singapore captured its first gold of the games, in yachting. Mansoor's gold also was Qatar's first here, although it marked the third time he has won the Asian Games 100. He lowered the games record time again in doing it.

China seized eight golds for the day, with three each in yachting and shooting in addition to two in track and field.

That boosted its total to 100 — the total it had predicted before the games — another five days of competition remain. It won the last games in Beijing in 1990 with 183 golds.

Japan, with golds in yachting and one each in track and bowling, edged ahead of archrival South Korea in the tight battle for second place. Japan had 36 to 35 for the Koreans, who won gold Tuesday in bowling as well as modern pentathlon. Kazakhstan was next with 16 and Iran had eight.

In total medals, China had 188, Japan 136, South Korea 106, Kazakhstan 50 and Taiwan 26. Meanwhile, Kuwait, China, South Korea and Uzbekistan advanced to Thursday's soccer semifinals. Kuwait beat the United Arab Emirates 2-1 in extra time.

Tuesday, China beat Saudi Arabia 2-0, South Korea slipped by archrival Japan 3-2 on a penalty kick in injury time, and unbeaten Uzbekistan blanked Turkmenistan 3-0.

Kazakhstan scored victories Tuesday in the team modern pentathlon competition, track and shooting.

Taiwan also was among those that cut into China's haul on the track. Wang Hui-Chen won the women's 200 metres in a games record 23.34 seconds, followed by Sri Lankans Susanthika Jayasinghe and Darasha K. Damayanthi.

Ryan Han Wui Tan, the Asian champion, was Malaysia's 14-year-old champion in optimist class yachting. Officials could not confirm whether he was the youngest gold medalist of these games. Except for a seventh-place finish in the last of seven races, he finished no lower than third. The worst race does not count in a competitor's total score.

Mansoor and his rivals went through five false starts before completing their 100-metre sprint. He won in 10.18 seconds, beating the 4-year-old games mark of 10.30 and finishing comfortably ahead of Kazakhstan's Vitaly Savin, who took silver in 10.29.

Japan's Shunji Karube beat teammate Yoshihiko Saito in a photo finish in the men's 400-metre hurdles. Both were timed in 49.13, beating the 8-year-old games record of 49.31.

China's only men's victory came in the long jump, and Huang Geng's winning 8.34 metres didn't count as a games record because it was wind-aided. Instead, teammate Huang Baoting got the record with his silver medal effort of 8.12, the old mark was 8.07.

As expected, China's powerful contingent of distance runners won the women's 3,000 metres. Zhang Linli's time of 8 minutes, 52.97 seconds broke the games record of 8:57.12. Harumi Hiroshima of Japan failed in a home-stretch effort



Qatar's Tala Mansoor raises his arm in victory as he crosses the line to win the men's 100m to take the gold medal, setting a new record at the 12th Asian Games. Mansoor, after five false starts in the event, finished in a time of 10.18secs to take the gold beating his previous Asian Games record set in Beijing by 12 hundredths of a second (AFP photo)

to catch Zhang and took the silver in 8:53.74.

But Olga Chichigina of Kazakhstan edged China's Zhou Hongyang and Zhang Yu in the 100-metre hurdles. The times were 12.80, 12.87 and 12.90.

In the heptathlon, Syria's Sheaa piled up 6,360 points, beating the games record of 6,231. China's Zhang

Xiaohui was second with 5,800.

In their modern pentathlon, Kim scored 5,329 to 5,227 for Kazakhstan's Alexandre Parygine, but Kazakhstan took the team title with 15,493 to the Koreans' 15,288.

Two grand masters were decided in bowling — Lee Ji-Yeon of South Korea in the women's competition and

Hiroshi Yamamoto of Japan in the men's. The golds were decided after a 15-game battle among the top 16 scorers in singles, doubles, trios and five-member team competition.

Lee defeated teammate Kim Sook-Young 389 to 321 in the women's final, with Irene Garcia of the Philippines taking the bronze after being eliminated 235 to 188 by Lee.

Yamamoto beat Taiwan's Isai Chun-Lin 412-406 in the men's final, after eliminating bronze medalist Saeed Hadi Al Hajiri 252-172.

Aside from Malaysia's Tan, yachting champions were Chi-Loong Benedict Tan of Singapore in the laser class, Qian Hong of China in men's mistral imco, Li Ke of China in women's mistral imco, Takayuki Goto and Hiroshi Maeda of Japan in enterprise, their teammates Kenji Nakamura and Masato Takaki in men's 470, and Chen Xiumei and Liu Sumei of China in women's 470.

Asiad security stepped up after athletes' great escape

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — Security has been stepped up around the athletes village at Asia's biggest sporting event after at least nine competitors went missing in what is being known inside the perimeter fence as "The Great Escape."

Police in the Asian Games host city of Hiroshima are searching for four Sri Lankans, including the country's top runner, three Nepalese footballers and karate fighters, and two Pakistani canoeists, officials said. Organisers are also checking the whereabouts of an Iranian wrestler.

"We cannot speculate on the reasons for these disappearances," said organising committee Deputy Secretary General Toshiko Ito before a meeting to warn the heads of 42 national delegations to plug the gaps.

But athletes and police are sure the nine have joined a growing influx of illegal immigrants in Asia's economic paradise.

A delegation chief, who asked not to be named, said: "Word has spread like wildfire about this. There is a bit of a camp atmosphere and they are calling it 'The Great Escape.' It will be difficult to stop more."

There was also a rumour that the Yemen table tennis team had bolted. But that proved unfounded. The team could not afford to come to Hiroshima.

Extra patrols are to be started at the games village where most of the 7,000 athletes and officials at Asia's biggest sporting event have been put up, said village

director Eiji Korekata.

The two tower blocks and dozen smaller towers are surrounded by a two metre (seven feet) metal fence. Security will be particularly strict at night, Korekata explained, though he insisted "athletes are still free to come and go as they wish."

The director said some had tried to avoid using the main gate for exits. He hinted that any athlete trying to leave with a suitcase full of belongings without a good excuse can expect special scrutiny.

Many athletes have had to give up their passports to their delegation chiefs. A large number also need permission from their "chief de mission" to leave the village to go shopping or sightseeing.

The Philippine Olympic Committee considered forcing its 167 athletes and officials to pay a cash bond to stop them from vanishing. The plan was dropped because they thought this would not stop anyone determined to go.

The athletes village director met Philippine delegation chief Manny Lopez late Monday, said delegation spokesman Gus Villanueva. But he stressed that no Filipino athletes were missing.

The organising committee chief said "a strong request" for delegations to report missing athletes as soon as possible would still be made.

Sri Lanka's 800 metre runner Sanjith Subasinghe, a police inspector and winner of a South Asian Games gold medal, went missing Saturday. The delegation made a search request on Monday.

Cyclists Chandane Sujeeva, Rohitha Hanchapras and Wasantha Kumara followed after the team time trial Sunday. They left their belongings behind but had asked for travellers cheques to go shopping, officials said.

The identities of the two Nepalese footballers and karate fighter and the two Pakistani canoeists were not given.

Athletes can stay in Japan for 90 days as Asian Games competitors. Their Asian Games identity cards act as visas.

But immigration authorities have already stopped a number of bogus teams and spectators taking advantage of the event to sneak into Japan.

Fifty-five Filipinos, pretending to be a volleyball team, were stopped last week. Fifteen Burmese with false visas who said they were football supporters have been turned away. Sixteen foreigners who said they were Greek supporters but spoke no Greek and had fake passports were deported at the weekend.

In May, there were an estimated 300,000 people known to be in the country illegally, the biggest number come from Thailand and South Korea.

Illegal immigration from poorer competing nations is a growing problem at international sports events. At the Commonwealth Games in Victoria in August, more than 10 Asian and African competitors went missing to seek their fortune in Canada.

Disputed decisions mar boxing semis

HIROSHIMA (R) — Controversial decisions rocked the semifinals of the Asian Games boxing tournament Tuesday, with the worst a hometown win for Japanese flyweight Kenji Nakazono over a Thai.

Nakazono beat Thailand's Vichai Khadpo 9-6 even though it appeared Khadpo had won easily.

"It was a bad decision. It was in Japan," said Thailand's Cuban coach Juan Fontanilla.

"When the fight ended I thought no problem, but that's boxing," he said.

Japanese coach Yoshitaka Futomi said, "I didn't know what the decision was going to be, so when I heard it I threw up my hands and yelled 'banzai'. I was very relieved."

The crowd also booed when Pakistan's Zaigham Maseel beat Eric Canoy of the Philippines in a featherweight semifinal.

Maseel won 28-24 on a count-back after the fight ended in a draw.

Normally for a boxer to score a point, three of the five judges watching must push a button at the same time.

If the fight is tied then all the pushes are tallied up. "That's the decision but I'm very upset," Philippines coach Nonito Velasco said.

Maseel meets Thailand's Somluck Kamsing, a winner over Indonesia's Nemo Bahari, in the final Thursday.

There was also a shocked response when South Korea's Ko Young-Sam outpointed Kazakhstan's Vassili Jirov.

Jirov is a former European champion and had Ko in trouble several times with his hard right.

Kazak coach Nourmakhanov made an official appeal against the decision which was turned down.

"The result was decided before the fight started," he said.

Ko meets Iran's Ghoushi Pourtaghi in the light heavyweight final.

Pourtaghi beat India's Lakha Singh.

In the light middleweight division final, China's Pan Feng meets current Asian champion Kanatbek Chagataev, who knocked out Thailand's Suthap Wongsuntorn with a left hook.

In the light welterweight division Reynaldo Galido of the Philippines beat Thailand's Porchai Thongburan to meet Pakistan's Usman Khan, a winner in a walkover because of an injury to Kazakhstan's Bolat Nisymbetov, who won the Asian championships earlier this year.

Maseel meets Thailand's Somluck Kamsing, a winner over Indonesia's Nemo Bahari, in the featherweight final.

In the flyweight final Nakazono takes on Elias Rea-cado of the Philippines, who narrowly edged Pakistan's Ali Mohammad Kambrani 15-14.

Thailand put four boxers into the finals of the 12 divisions while Pakistan and Kazakhstan have three each.

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7	17003	34	1222
8	13470	35	12643
9	20802	36	17210
10	4340	37	21291
11	671	38	19142
12	6110	39	9619
13	1228	40	6403
14	21588	41	8395
15	6344	42	17412
16	8261	43	2276
17	4009	44	2184
18	20029	45	7506
19	7654	46	1669
20	11254	47	7636
21	2283	48	13902
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MARADONA'S BACK: Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona (right) takes the ball past Argentine actor Dario Grandinetti Monday in Buenos Aires during a hospital charity game. Maradona retired from professional soccer after the sports governing body FIFA suspended him for a second time after testing positive for a banned drug during the 1994 World Cup (AFP photo)

Australia lifts horse race ban after virus is contained

BRISBANE (R) — Australian horse racing officials Tuesday lifted a ban on track meetings after apparently containing an outbreak of a mystery virus which killed a trainer and 14 horses.

The announcement ended three weeks of disruption which cost the Queensland racing industry several million dollars in lost revenue.

Queensland Racing Minister Bob Gibbs said all restric-

tions on the movement of horses would end at midnight local time Tuesday.

Although experts believe the outbreak has been checked, a quarantine will remain in place at the three Brisbane stables where the horses died from the unidentified virus.

Trainer Vic Rail, 49, owner of the stable where the outbreak is believed to have originated, died in hospital two weeks ago, showing sim-

U.S. to host France in Davis Cup tie

LONDON (AP) — The United States will host France in the first round of the 1995 Davis Cup in a rematch of the championship final of three years ago.

Tuesday's draw matched the other top seed, Germany, against Croatia, making its first-ever appearance in the 16-nation World Group.

The first round matches will be played Feb. 3-5. Perhaps the most volatile pairing drawn a trip for Canada to Haiti in the first round of regional play in the American Zone Group Two, also set for Feb. 3-5.

The last time the United States and France met, Guy Forget and Henri Leconte led the French to a 3-1 victory in Lyon to take the 1991 title. The Americans rebounded to beat Switzerland in the championship match the following year.

The United States and Germany were made the top seeds by the Davis Cup committee despite their defeats in last month's semifinals. Russia, which beat Germany, and U.S. conqueror Sweden will meet at Moscow's Olympic Stadium in this year's championship Dec. 2-4.

Russia and Sweden were made the joint-third seeds, and both drew away matches for next year's first round. Russia will visit Belgium, while Sweden drew Denmark for the second consecutive year. Sweden won this year's encounter 5-0 at home.

South Africa, making its first appearance in the World Group since 1978, drew an opening round home match against Australia. South Africa was readmitted to the competition in 1992, and has steadily worked its way up through regional play to qualify for the top group.

The other first round pairings in the World Group are the Czech Republic at Italy, Spain at Austria and the Netherlands at Switzerland.

The host nation for each match is the team that played away the last time the two countries met, unless the last meeting was prior to 1970.

Jordan Soccer League leaders Al Wihdat to meet Kufrsoum

By Aileen Bannayan
Special To the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Kufrsoum, a newcomer to the Kingdom's first division soccer championship and the surprise team of the tournament, will this week clash with current leaders Al Wihdat when the seventh week of the competition kicks off Wednesday.

Kufrsoum are now in fifth place behind the Kingdom's top four teams — Al Wihdat, Al Faisali, Al Ramtha and Al Hussein — after scoring four wins.

Al Wihdat last week took the lead with 12 points after defeating Al Jeel, as Al Hussein conceded first place after surprisingly losing 2-0 to Al Ramtha.

Al Wihdat have so far won all their matches, allowing only one goal to enter their nets. They have however missed the efforts of key striker Hisham Abdul Mun'em who is preoccupied with his duties as head coach of Al Ruseifa club in the second division.

Another important clash this week will be that of second placed Al Hussein

and Al Ahli who have disappointed their fans with their seventh place standing and inconsistent form.

Al Hussein's only defeat was to Al Ramtha and the team is seeking to achieve a good standing this year especially after winning their first ever soccer title — the 1994 Federation Shield — two months ago.

Titleholders Al Faisali, still in fourth place, will face Al Qadissieh who are way down in 9th place in the standings at the moment.

One of Al Faisali's stars, Subhi Awad will be back with his team after serving a seven-month suspension. But while Al Faisali's form seems to be improving, Al Qadissieh have surprised and disappointed fans and have only won one match so far.

Last year, Al Qadissieh had maintained the best record in the second leg of the competition and ended the season in fourth place.

Third-placed Al Ramtha will next have a solid chance to improve their standing when they meet Al Karmel who have no points in the standings after losing all their matches so

far.

Al Karmel have had a turbulent start to the season with frustrating results, followed by the dismissal of their coach halfway through the start of the two leg competition.

Al Jazireh, currently in sixth place after defeating Al Qadissieh will next face lowly Shabab Al Hussein and therefore have an opportunity to further improve their standing.

Al Arabi who moved from tenth to eighth place after their win over Shabab Al Hussein, will next face 11th place Al Jeel. A win would greatly help Al Arabi's chances of moving

away from the last four places facing the grim threat of relegation.

With four weeks left in the first leg of the competition, Al Hussein have maintained the best scoring record at 20 goals followed by Kufrsoum 16, Al Faisali 12, while Al Wihdat only have 9.

According to figures released by the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), the total profit from the past week's matches reached JD12,700, with Al Wihdat-Al Jeel match securing nearly half the amount at JD6,078, while Shabab Al Hussein-Al Arabi match netted the least at JD271.

Standings before 7th week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihdat	6	6	—	—	9	1	12
Hussein	6	5	—	1	20	6	10
Ramtha	6	3	3	—	10	3	9
Faisali	6	3	2	1	12	3	8
Kufrsoum	6	4	—	2	16	13	8
Jazireh	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
Ahli	6	2	2	2	7	9	6
Arabi	6	2	1	3	7	12	5
Qadissieh	6	1	1	4	8	13	3
Shabab Al Hussein	6	1	1	4	9	16	3
Jeel	6	—	1	5	3	12	1
Karmel	6	—	—	6	2	15	—

Nigeria sure of hosting world soccer tournament

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's organisation of the World Youth Championship is on track and should meet all the demands of the International Football Federation (FIFA) in December, tournament organiser Sebastian Williams said Monday.

Political unrest in Nigeria during the summer raised fears that FIFA might switch the tournament to another country but Williams said World Soccer's governing body had no such plans.

"We have been in constant communication with FIFA and they have assured us that they are satisfied with our preparations for the competition so far," local organising committee (LOC) chairman Williams said in an interview.

He said hosting rights could be withdrawn only if FIFA was not satisfied with preparations after its final inspection of facilities.

"But we are almost ready with all that is required of us for hosting the competition," Williams said. "Our facilities

Auriol gains ground in San Remo Rally

MONTALCINO, Italy (R) — Carlos Sainz's hopes of winning the World Rally Championship took a knock on Tuesday when he left the road and had to deal with three punctures on the second day of the San Remo Rally.

Sainz got his Subaru back on the road and retained the lead in the event, the penultimate round of the world championship. But his misfortunes allowed defending champion Didier Auriol, who led the standing going into the San Remo Rally, to make up lost time.

Frenchman Auriol, driving a Toyota, moved up to third place in the rally after 13 stages, one minute 59 seconds behind Spain's Sainz.

Britain's Malcolm Wilson retained second place in a Ford, 1:30 behind Sainz, but he lost fourth gear and it seemed only a matter of time before Auriol overhauled him.

Bruno Thiry of Belgium held second place until he skidded off the road on the 13th stage. He drove his Ford to the finish on three wheels and dropped back to fourth place.

ADDENDUM TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW FACILITIES OF EDUCATION AT THREE UNIVERSITIES IN JORDAN

International Competitive Bidding (ICB)

This is to advise interested individuals, companies and/or their agents that the application materials for the above mentioned bids have been amended. Therefore, please note the followings:

- The amended application materials should be collected from the following respective universities for final submissions between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 12, 1994 to Wednesday, October 19, 1994:
 - The University of Jordan in Amman.
 - The liaison office of Yarmouk University located at the Higher Council For Science and Technology building inside the campus of the Royal Scientific Society.
 - The liaison office of Mu'tah University located at Samir Rifai St. — Jabal Amman.
- Closing date for the bid submission has been extended from 12:00 noon of Wednesday Nov. 2, 1994 to 12:00 noon of Tuesday Nov. 22, 1994.

Issued by: **Oct. 12, 1994**
The University of Jordan
The Yarmouk University
The Mu'tah University

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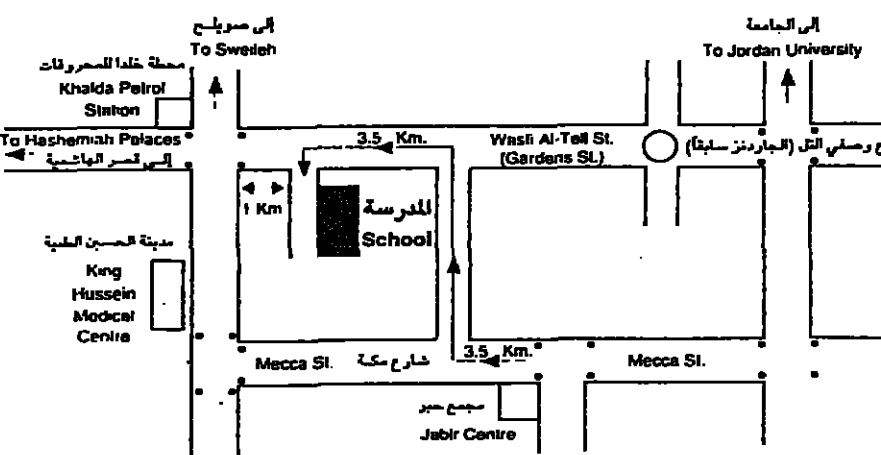
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Yusra, Safiyah Al Omari and Mahmoud Hamidah...in Al Muhajer (Immigrant)	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Farouk Fishawi & Hanan Shawqi ... in: EITHER YOU LOVE OR LEAVE	Shows at 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" SPEED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" CRUSH Shows: 3:30, 5:15	Presents: Children's theatre "MARZOUK AND THE MAGIC LAMP" at 10 a.m. For reservation call tel: 618274-618275	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.	

Arafat, Rabin tipped for Nobel prize amid dispute

OSLO (Agencies) — The Nobel Peace Prize Committee, wracked by its worst dispute in two decades, has decided to give this year's award to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Oslo newspaper Aftenposten said one committee member, who regards Mr. Arafat as a "terrorist," was so angered by the decision that he planned to resign in protest when the prize is announced in Oslo on Friday.

The report appeared to break a tradition of deep secrecy prior to the formal announcement of the most coveted of the Nobel prizes, which are worth seven million Swedish kronor (\$933,000) this year.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin gave a historic impetus to Middle East peace with a handshake on the White House lawn on Sept. 13, 1993, that ended the taboo on formal recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). They signed a declaration of principles on limited Palestinian self-rule as a first step towards an overall peace settlement between the two sides.

Aftenposten, quoting unidentified sources, said the five-member Nobel committee struggled with its decision at a meeting last Friday over who should be honoured for achieving last year's historic Middle East peace breakthrough during secret talks in Norway.

The report said the committee might meet again in an attempt to patch up the dispute. The committee can change its mind until the last minute but Aftenposten said that was unlikely since most members want Mr. Arafat to share the prize.

On Friday, the 1994 Nobel peace laureate, Elie Wiesel, said in Paris that the commit-

tee was "in agony" over the decision.

Committee secretary Geir Lundestad refused to say whether a decision had been reached.

Mr. Rabin's spokeswoman declined comment, saying the prime minister's office has not been informed of any decision. In Gaza City, Mr. Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abu Irdeineh, also refused comment.

But chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath saw Mr. Arafat will be "deeply gratified."

"I am sure Arafat must be deeply gratified at knowing that not only his people are proud of his achievements but now there is international acclaim for his role," Dr. Shaath told reporters.

Such an award would be a "very natural, well justified gesture, providing important impetus to the peace process."

"I am sure Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin opened up historic abilities for peace."

Aftenposten said Kare Kristiansen, one of the most outspoken members of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, so adamantly opposed the choice that he threatened to resign if Mr. Arafat shared the prize. Aftenposten said that Mr. Kristiansen, a long-time supporter of Israel, had opposed Mr. Arafat throughout the selection process.

"I am not prepared to comment, or to confirm or deny anything of what the newspaper has reported today," he said.

However, when Israeli Radio told him in an interview earlier Tuesday that some Israelis would appreciate his stand, Mr. Kristiansen answered: "Thank you very much."

In the past, Mr. Kristiansen has criticised both Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin.

Mr. Kristiansen, a former government minister and member of parliament from the Christian Democratic

Party, started off his six-year term on the committee in 1991 with unusual candor for a member of the tight-knit body, which traditionally refused comment on past winners.

At the time, he said the 1990 award to then-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev a few months before he ordered a violent military crackdown in the Baltic republics was an example of how dangerous it could be to honour an active politician.

Mr. Kristiansen has also said former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger might not have shared the 1973 prize with North Vietnamese negotiator Le Duc Tho — the only laureate to ever decline the prize — if the committee had waited.

That prize deeply split the committee, and two members resigned in protest with five years left on their terms, but waited two months to announce their decision until after the prize was presented in December.

Tuesday's report highlighted a dispute on whether the prize, one of six Nobel awards being given this month, should be shared equally among both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Under current Nobel statutes, there should not be more than three winners, but many more were involved in the secret talks that led to the 1993 agreement on limited Palestinian self-rule.

Other key players were Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Mahmoud Abbas, who signed the peace accord with Israel last year in Washington.

The committee reportedly had considered avoiding the problem by honouring those who did the actual work in the Norwegian-mediated talks, such as Norwegian peace broker Terje Rød Larsen, Israeli negotiator Uri Savir and a Palestinian negotiator.



KING MEETS CHRISTOPHER: His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday receives U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (see page one) (photo by Youssef Al Allan)

Israel expels 26 from 'security zone'

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli-backed militiamen stormed the village of Kfar Houne in the Israeli-occupied sector of South Lebanon and expelled 26 Shiite Muslim men and boys to government-controlled territory.

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) were supervised by Israeli officers during the operation that began late Monday.

There was no official explanation for the raid, but one of the expelled villagers, Lutfi Al Habhab, said he was told by an SLA officer that Shiite residents of the village were suspected of aiding Iranian-backed guerrillas who daily attack the Israeli enclave.

Mr. Habhab said the officer told him the expellees, aged between 11 and 70, should press Lebanese officials to halt the attacks and stressed that the villagers would not be allowed to return home until the assaults stop.

The mass expulsion came five days after a senior SLA chieftain narrowly escaped death in a guerrilla bombing inside the "security zone."

The action heightened tension in South Lebanon, the only active Arab-Israeli war front, as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher flew to Damascus seeking to revive peace talks between Syria and Israel that have been stalled since February.

Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, head of the Higher Shiite Council that runs the sect's day-to-day religious affairs, denounced the expulsion as "an Israeli crime."

"I put this crime to Mr. Christopher who is near us now," he told a news conference after meeting the expellees.

Israel has occupied the zone since 1985 to shield its northern towns from guerrilla attacks.

Kfar Houne has a population of around 2,500, 500 of them Shiites and the rest Christians.

The villagers, most of them dressed in pajamas, arrived in Beirut at mid-morning Tuesday.

One said militiamen entered his house Monday night, saying they were searching for weapons and then took him in a car to the village square, where all the men were assembled in the rain.

The man, who refused to give his name for fear of reprisals, said he and the others were blindfolded, their hands tied behind their backs and taken to the nearby town of Jezzine.

That is the largest town in the area and six kilometres north of the Kfar Houne. It is controlled by the SLA, which is trained, armed and funded by Israel.

A narrow corridor connects the area with the Israeli-occupied sector further south.

After spending the night in a barracks there, the villagers were put on buses at dawn Tuesday and sent north to Beirut.

It was the first mass expulsion from the Israeli-held enclave in two years and the first since the expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon Dec. 17, 1992.

Those moves caused a furor and threatened the U.S.-sponsored peace process until, after a year living in a makeshift tent camp between Israeli and Lebanese army lines, the Palestinians were allowed to return to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On Friday, three people were killed and six SLA militiamen wounded in two bomb ambushes in the "security zone" by guerrillas of Hizbollah, or party of God.

Among the wounded was Akel Hashem, SLA chief in the zone's western sector and second-in-command to the militia's leader, Antoine Lahd.

The enclave, which covers 1,100 square kilometres, has a predominantly Shiite population of 200,000. It is garrisoned by 1,200 Israelis and 2,500 militiamen.

Bandits rob foreign reporters near Basra

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A group of foreign journalists and Iraqi officials escorting them to the southern city of Basra were robbed of thousands of dollars in equipment, cash and valuables by armed highway bandits, journalists said Tuesday.

"They punched me in the side of the head and then lined us up next to the road with our hands on our heads," said Elias Gambino, 31, a producer for Cable News Network (CNN).

"I thought they were going to execute us."

Ms. Gambino said the drunken ringleader of the nine gunmen who stopped their bus kept yelling: "I'm doing this because my kids are starving. Iraq has no food."

The robbery underscored the lawlessness that has become endemic in Iraq amid the economic collapse brought on by U.N. sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

No one was seriously hurt but those aboard the bus were threatened with death and several, including some of the women, were slapped and punched, Reuters reported.

Among the 30 occupants of the bus were Reuters' Amman bureau chief Jack Redden, Agence France Presse's Randa Habib and reporters for CNN and Fuji television. They were covering the Iraqi military deployment near the Kuwaiti border.

They said they were stopped Monday evening about 30 minutes north of Basra. The bandits drove a pickup truck coming down the wrong way on an otherwise deserted

highway. Four gunmen carrying AK-47 Kalashnikov rifles first robbed Ms. Gambino and others of television cameras, watches, jewellery and at least \$4,500 in cash.

Other motorists on the highway were also being robbed as the holdup continued. The gunman then forced everyone off the bus and robbed them, forcing the Iraqi men among the 30 people to strip.

At first they said they would put all the journalists back on the bus and blow it up, but then shot out the tyres and fled.

The journalists said the driver changed the tyres and proceeded to Basra, where clerks at the Sheraton Hotel were surprised to see a group of Iraqi officials from the Ministry of Information walk in their underwear.

The bandits, who were young and some drunk, were dressed in civilian clothes or khaki combat gear, and six had masks covering their faces, Ms. Habib reported.

"They stole everything we had, money, jewellery, passports, personal belongings, cameras and credit cards, before making us lie on the ground and hitting us with their rifle butts," she reported.

They threatened to kill us and fired at the ground several times with their Kalashnikovs.

Two military trucks arriving on the scene were also stopped and the two soldiers in each of them forced to get out.

The passengers were treated for cuts and bruises when they arrived in Basra.

GIA frees Algerian singer with a message

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian singer Lounes Matoub said he had been kidnapped by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the country's most radical Islamic faction, and released with a message for his Berber people.

Mr. Matoub, a strong critic of the fundamentalists, told AFP and the BBC that the GIA had freed him after more than two weeks in captivity with a call from the movement for help from the Berbers of his Kabylie region.

"The villagers must understand that we are not against them but that we are fighting an illegitimate regime," the GIA message said. "We are asking them to help us and not to greet us with hunting rifles when we appear in their villages."

Mr. Matoub, 38, added that he also had a message for the Berber Cultural Movement (MCB), which is campaigning for recognition of the Tamazight language and separate identity of the Berbers, descendants of Algeria's indigenous people.

But he refused to disclose what this message was, stating that he would give details at a press conference on Thursday.

Mr. Matoub said he was "well treated" by the armed gang that kidnapped him on September 25 in a cafe near Tizi-Ouzou, the capital of the Kabylie region where he enjoys immense popularity.

The Jerusalem attack was claimed by the Hamas group. Many Hamas activists live in Hebron, and the group has threatened more attacks.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Tuesday condemned Monday's attack and urged Israel to help break the cycle of violence as Hamas warned of further bloodshed.

An Israeli woman reserve soldier and a Palestinian man were killed when the two members of Hamas's armed wing Izzedin Al Qassam opened fire in a pedestrian street before being shot down by Israeli police.

Soldiers shoot at Israeli car

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers accidentally shot at an Israeli vehicle in the volatile area of the West Bank town of Hebron Monday, seriously wounding the driver, Israeli reports said.

The army confirmed only that soldiers had shot and wounded an Israeli civilian in the head after firing on a car they thought was suspicious or being driven by guerrillas in the Hebron area. The shooting was being investigated, it added.

Palestinian reports said an Arab had ambushed the Israeli vehicle, at an intersection about 25 kilometres

south of Jerusalem, and that troops were combing Hebron, a city of 110,000 Palestinians and 450 Israelis, for suspects.

The site of the shooting was in an area prone to Palestinian-Israeli violence, particularly since Feb. 25 when an Israeli settler shot and killed more than 30 Palestinians at prayer in the Ibrahim Mosque.

Monday's shooting also came as troops in the West Bank were on higher alert a day after two Israelis were shot and killed in downtown Jerusalem by two Palestinians who were slain at the site.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UNICEF concerned about Iraq malnutrition

GENEVA (AFP) — Malnutrition among newborns in Iraq has increased by 9.2 per cent in the last year, the U.N.'s Children's Fund (UNICEF) said here Tuesday, indicating its growing concern for at least two million Iraqi children. The agency said that additional food rations decreed by Baghdad in September were a health threat for 2.25 million children and 230,000 women who are pregnant or breast feeding. According to a report by the agency on the impact of the food rationing on the most vulnerable segment of the population, some 665,000 families have a 50 per cent caloric shortfall in their diet. The effect could be a long term increase in the country's infant mortality rate and a lowering of children's intellectual development, the report said. Flour, rice, oil and sugar rations have gone down by between 16 and 50 per cent since September in Iraq, with people's caloric intake reduced by 36 per cent and protein intake by 37 per cent, UNICEF said.

Congo denies arms-for-oil deal with Israel

BRAZZAVILLE (AFP) — The Congolese government on Tuesday denied that President Pascal Lissouba was currently visiting Israel to strike a deal to trade Congolese oil for Israeli weapons, in an official statement. Mr. Lissouba, who began a four-day official visit to Israel on Sunday, was there to "lay the groundwork for economic, scientific and cultural cooperation" after the restoration of diplomatic ties in 1991, the statement said. He did not "go to Israel to negotiate new military accords nor to buy arms," it added, stressing that "no Congolese military official is part of the head of state's delegation." Official Israeli sources said Monday an arms-for-oil pact was an aim of the visit and noted that Congolese Oil Minister Benoit Koukabe was a member of the delegation. Mr. Lissouba's team also includes Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Benjamin Bounkoulou and his predecessor, now an opposition deputy in parliament, Jean Blaise Kololo.

U.N. peacekeeper wounded in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — A Zimbabwean soldier serving with the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) has been wounded by a stray bullet while on guard in southern Mogadishu, U.N. military spokesman Major Rick McDonald announced here on Tuesday. The condition of the peacekeeper, who was wounded on the right hand, was stable, Maj. McDonald said, without giving further details or identity of the wounded U.N. soldier. In another incident, a commander of the Somali auxiliary police force and a regional governor were shot and killed in northeastern Somalia. The two, Colonel Abdi Sugulle of the police force and Colonel Jama Dahi — members of the Majerteen Somali clan — were believed to have been killed by a man who had gone to them to ask for a job, but had failed to get one.

Major drug haul in Sharjah emirate

SHARJAH (AP) — Police have seized 228 kilograms of hashish and opium from an illegal Iranian immigrant in the biggest drug haul this year, an official newspaper reported Tuesday. Captain Abdul Rahman Al Fardan of the police anti-drug squad was quoted as saying the Iranian tried to enter the country by boat with 188 kilograms of hashish and 40 kilograms of opium. The 30-year-old man, identified only by the initials M.M., was arrested as he tried to sell the drugs by an undercover agent. He had hidden the drugs in eight bags between rocks on a remote part of the coast. The squad received a tip-off that the suspect wanted to sell the quantity for one million dirhams (\$271,740), the newspaper said. The United Arab Emirates lies on a major smuggling route through the Gulf. The largest bust of the year previously occurred in June, when police seized 200 kilograms of drugs.

Kuwait bans fishermen from north

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait on Tuesday imposed a nighttime ban on its fishermen sailing in its northern waters because of the crisis with Iraq. A Defence Ministry statement called on "citizens and fishermen" not to go to the area "because of the current situation in the country." Kuwait's main islands of Bubiyan, Faylakah and Warba are situated in the area involved. The maritime zone stretches from Ras Hamara to Bubiyan, about 150 kilometres north of Kuwait City, and from Bubiyan to Faylakah about 40 kilometres east of the capital. Fishermen were asked to use the island of Auba, which is a dozen kilometres south of Faylakah, said the statement published by the official agency KUNA. The decision came after the defence ministry extended Kuwait's military zone to cover about half of the country and ending only 30 kilometres outside of Kuwait City.

Cypriot police arrest Dutchman

NICOSIA (AP) — Police have arrested a Dutch "drug baron" wanted in the Netherlands, the Cyprus News Agency (CNA) reported. Albertus van Os, 39, of Amsterdam was picked up Monday in the island's key port, Limassol, the agency said. Details on Mr. Van Os' case were not given. However, in an indication of its seriousness, CNA said Dutch police had already arrived to assist their Cypriot counterparts. CNA said the Dutchman is expected to be deported to the Netherlands. Mr. Van Os moved to Cyprus in July and lived in the free-wheeling resort of Ayia Napa before taking up residence in Limassol, the agency said.

Israel warns against German extremism

BERLIN (R) — Israeli Ambassador Avi Primor said in a newspaper interview published on Tuesday that Germany's schools needed to redouble efforts to educate young people on the dangers of extremism and xenophobia. "Right-wing extremism ... has roots not only with old Nazis but unfortunately among a number of youths as well," Mr. Primor told the Berliner Morgenpost. Mr. Primor said he was concerned about opinion polls showing that about one in four Germans harboured some positive sentiment towards the Nazis. The surveys meant that right-wing extremism was not a "temporary problem ... that reemerges from time to time during difficult economic periods," he added. But the ambassador said that he was in general "hopeful" because "there are more and more people in Germany who are actively fighting right-wing extremism and because the vast majority of Germans have faced up to the past."

Liberal reelected Tunisian speaker

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's parliament reelected Habib Boulares as its speaker for the new legislative year which started on Tuesday. Mr. Boulares, a liberal member of the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union (RCD), was unanimously elected speaker for the fourth year. The 163-member Chamber of Deputies also named two opposition representatives as members of each of its specialised committees for the first time. Opposition has 19 seats and the RCD 142 seats in the parliament elected last March for a five-year period.

RSCN to mark environment day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is marking Arab Environment Day Friday with several activities and programmes throughout the country, according to an RSCN statement Tuesday. Activities will include a two-week workshop on environmental water consumption to open at Amra Hotel on Oct. 16.

COLUMN

Balladur rejects calls to restore guillotine

AMBOISE, France (R) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur Monday rejected calls to restore the death penalty following last week's Paris killings of three police officers and a taxi driver. Conservative Balladur, on a tour of the Loire Valley, said restoring the death penalty, abolished by the Socialists 13 years ago, would create more problems than it would solve. He said he did not feel the issue had been re-opened. "As things stand, and in view of current international conventions, it would be difficult to do so," he said. Abolition of the guillotine was one of President Francois Mitterrand's first initiatives after his election in 1981. Mr. Balladur said he would have voted for abolition if he had been a member of parliament at the time. Several parliamentarians have recently called for the death penalty to be restored following several murders of children. And last week's killings in Paris prompted headline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua to suggest that people convicted of murdering policemen, children or elderly people should face death.

Half a billion people suffer from mental disorders

GENEVA (AFP) — At least half a billion people worldwide, or about one-tenth of the planet's population, suffer from mental disorder, the World Health Organisation said in a communique issued on World Mental Health Day. The communique said that more than 50 million people suffer from serious mental problems, including schizophrenia, while 155 million people are neurotic and 120 million are mentally retarded. It added that 100 million people suffer from emotional disorders such as deep depression and 16 million are mad. The communique said that 100 million additional people suffer from mental disorders linked to addiction, infections or trauma. The world population is over five billion.

Bishop proposes making women cardinals

VATICAN CITY (AFP) — The Bishop of Owando, Congo, Ernest Kombo proposed to the Pope and bishops participating in the synod on consecrated religious life Monday that women be allowed to become cardinals. Bishop Kombo proposed creating "secular women cardinals," in other words non-ordained priests, because the Vatican does not authorise women to be ordained. "May God make consecrated women an incandescent light that shines on the world and constitutes a veritable salt of the Earth," Bishop Kombo said, calling on God to bring about the appointment of women "to posts of responsibility, even to the highest posts on the hierarchy, as secular cardinals." Never in the church's history, since the founding of the Sacred College in the 12th century, have there been female cardinals. During the synodic work carried out Monday, several bishops came out in favour of giving nuns more responsibility in the church.

Teenager finds grenade launcher in Moscow park

MOSCOW (AFP) — A 15-year-old boy found a primed and loaded grenade launcher hidden in the bushes of a Moscow park and aimed at a nearby apartment building, ITAR-TASS said Wednesday. Military experts were called in to discharge the grenade launcher, which had a 25-metre (80-foot) length of rope attached to the trigger leading to another dump of bushes at Vorontsov Park in southern Moscow. Violent crime, frequently involving use of bombs and military hardware, has risen sharply in Russia's large cities in the past 18 months. Law enforcement authorities have attributed most crimes involving bombings and heavy weaponry to settling of accounts between rival criminal gangs.